BAMBOO COMICS

なごみクラブ。

Pagoom Club

Toshiko Endo
遠藤淑子

2

TAKESHOBO

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Nagomi Club

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NAGOMI CLUB

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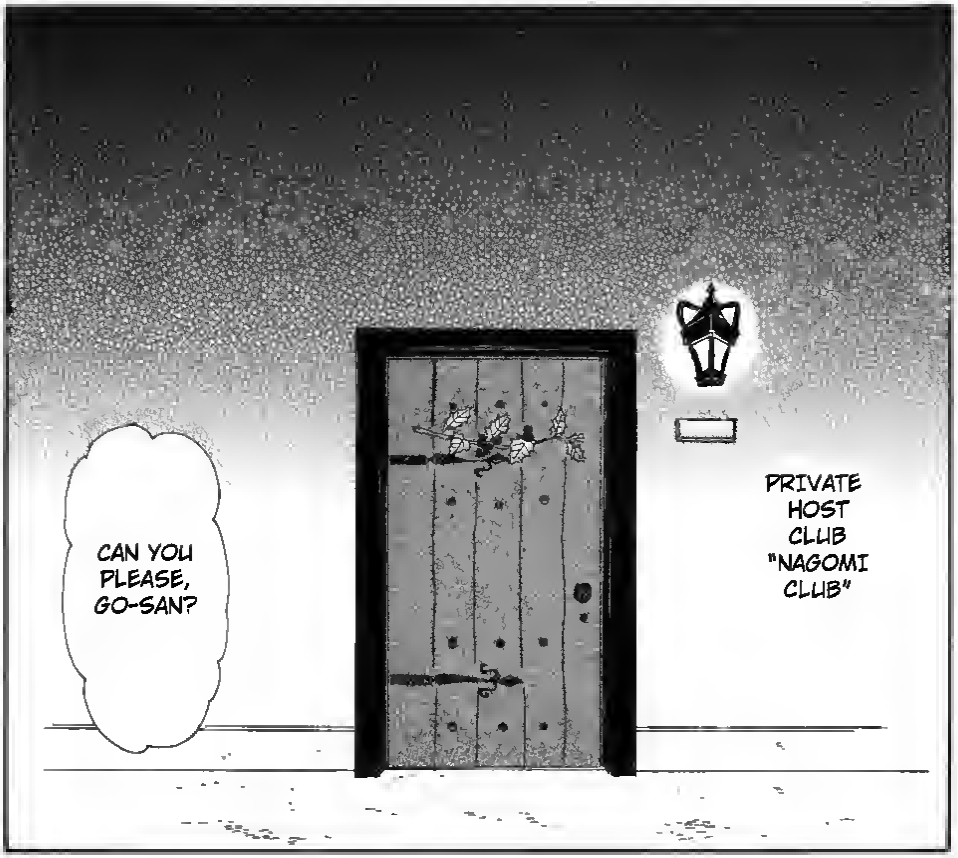
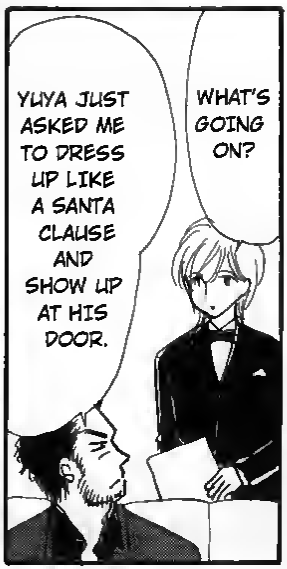

CAN YOU PLEASE, GO-SAN?
PRIVATE HOST CLUB "NAGOMI CLUB"

THIS IS WHAT EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. AND MY SIS ARGUED WITH HER FRIEND ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SANTA CLAUSE.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
YUYA JUST ASKED ME TO DRESS UP LIKE A SANTA CLAUSE AND SHOW UP AT HIS DOOR.

YOU'D BETTER DO IT. OR, THERE SHOULD BE SUCH SERVICE AT A DEPARTMENT STORE OR A TOY STORE?
NOOOO. THAT'S NOT WHAT I NEED.

I'M GOING TO STAY UP TONIGHT TO GET A PICTURE OF SANTA CLAUSE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHEN YOU WERE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, THE DOCTOR SAID YOU NEED TO EAT EVERYTHING AND YOU SHOULDN'T STAY UP. YOU MADE THOSE PROMISES, REMEMBER?
...
THEN, CAN YOU STAY UP FOR ME, AND WHEN HE SHOWS UP, WAKE ME UP?
WHAAAT?
W, WELL.... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAKE UP JUST FOR THAT. I'LL TAKE A SNAPSHOT OF HIM FOR YA.
NO WAY! THAT'S CHEATING, IF I DON'T DO IT MYSELF!
YOU GOTTA ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO WAKE ME UP!
OTHERWISE, I'LL NEVER TALK TO YOU AGAIN!
THAT'S HOW IT WENT. THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING GO-SAN TO BECOME A SANTA CLAUSE.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?
'CUZ NOBODY BUT YOU SEEMS AVAILABLE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
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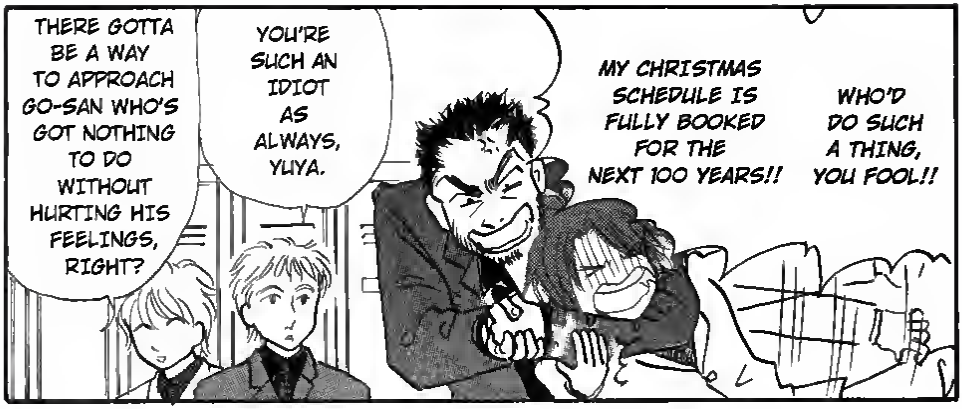
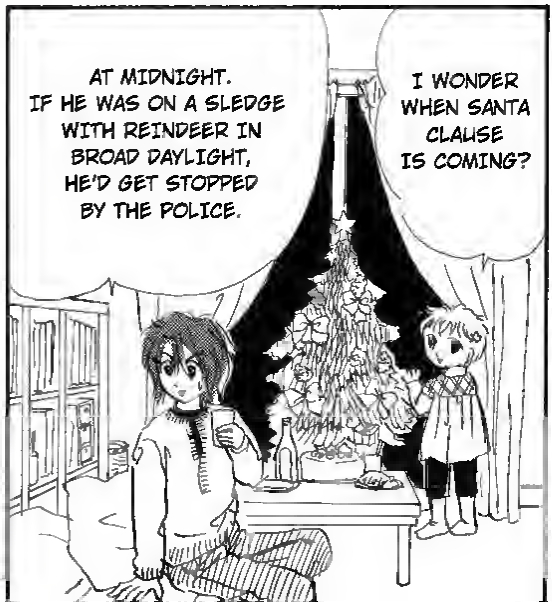

THERE GOTTA BE A WAY TO APPROACH GO-SAN WHO'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITHOUT HURTING HIS FEELINGS, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT AS ALWAYS, YUIYA.
MY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE IS FULLY BOOKED FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!!
WHO'D DO SUCH A THING, YOU FOOL!!

ME THREE. IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, YOU KNOW?
ME, TOO.

NO WAY! I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO ON CHRISTMAS EVE,
THEN, TAKU-SAN, CAN YOU? I'LL DO ANYTHING, ANYTHING, AT ALL.
YOU GUYS ARE RUDE, TOO!!


AT MIDNIGHT. IF HE WAS ON A SLEDGE WITH REINDEER IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, HE'D GET STOPPED BY THE POLICE.
I WONDER WHEN SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING?

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

RIGHT...
SIGH...

THEN, I'M GONNA GO TO SLEEP. YOU'LL KEEP A PROMISE, WON'T YOU?
GOOD NIGHT
PROM-ISE?
U, UH... YEAH.
GOT IT. GO TO BED NOW.
MAKE SURE TO WAKE ME UP, WHEN HE COMES, OK?
11°
WHO'S THAT? THIS LATE?
"I FELL ASLEEP BY ACCIDENT. IT WAS TOO LATE WHEN I WOKE UP!" THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD TELL HER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? DEPARTMENT STORES AND TOY STORES ALL SAID NO. 'CUZ THAT'S NOT THEIR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.
EVERYONE I ASKED HAD THEIR SCHEDULES BOOKED.

コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
キィー
HERE I COME,
NOT BECAUSE I GOT NOTHIN' TO DO.
I CANCELED IT FOR YOU.
WHAAAT?
OH, GO-SAN
YOU CAME AS EXPECTED!
HEY! YOU'RE HERE!
THANKS FOR COMING!
HAHAHA. I'M THE ONLY ONE WEARING SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE YOU'RE WINNING A GAME, MANAGER?
WAIT A MIN! WHAT'S THIS? SANTA'S COMPETITION?
I'M NOT HERE, BECAUSE I HAD NO PLANS TONIGHT.
ME, NEI-THER!

EVERYONE, PLEASE. BE QUIET. MY SIS IS GOING TO WAKE UP...
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ASKED FIRST!
I RENTED THIS COSTUME FOR THIS. TAKE MINE FIRST.
NO, ME FIRST!
NO WAY. I'VE COME HERE ALL THE WAY, TOO. TAKE MINE, FIRST.
I'M REALLY BUSY. I'M GONNA LEAVE AFTER THE PHOTO-SHOOT.

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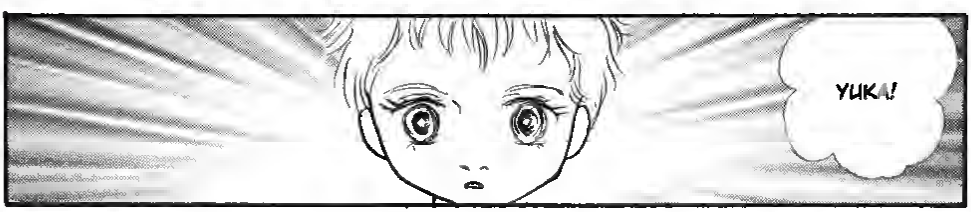
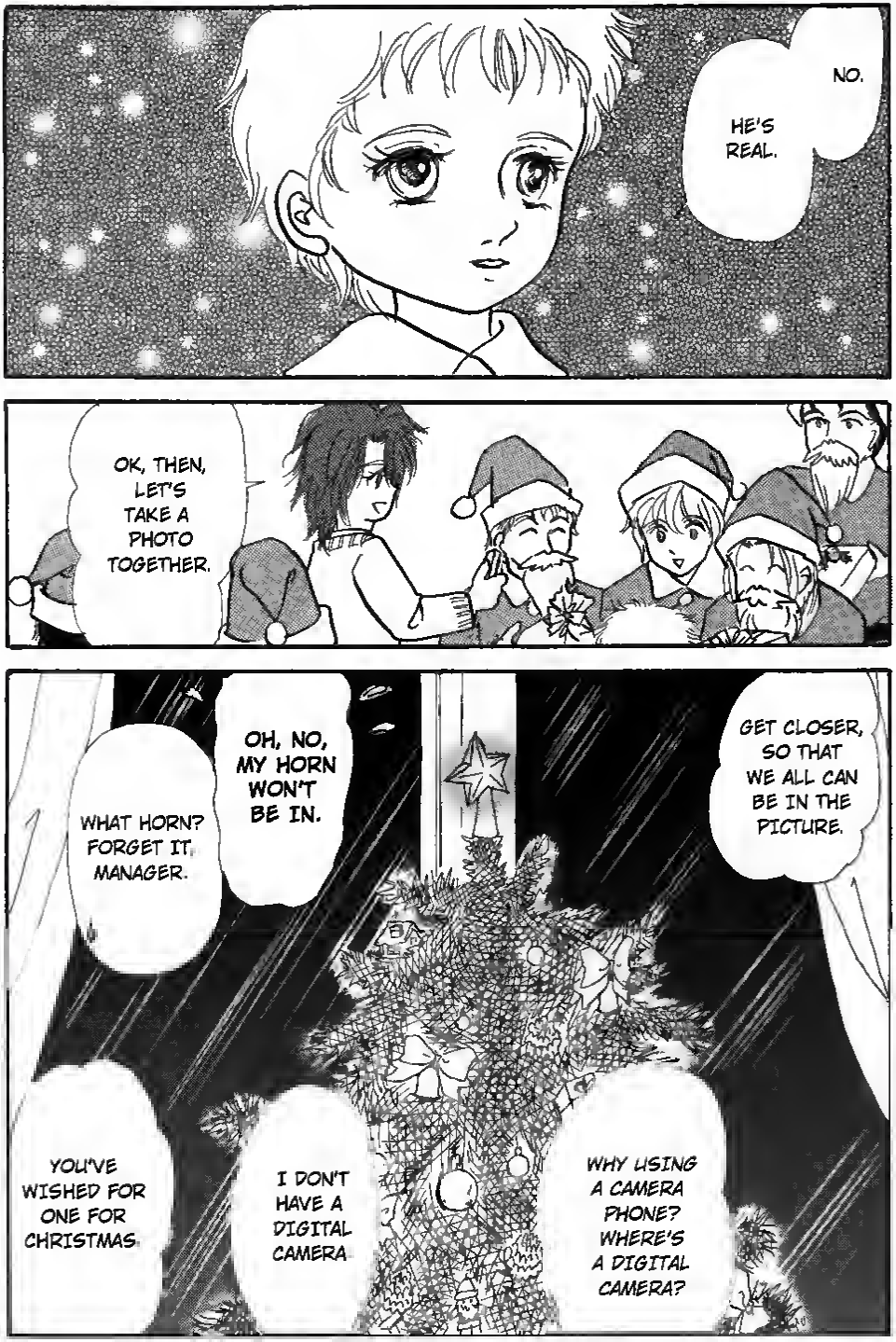
うわ!!!

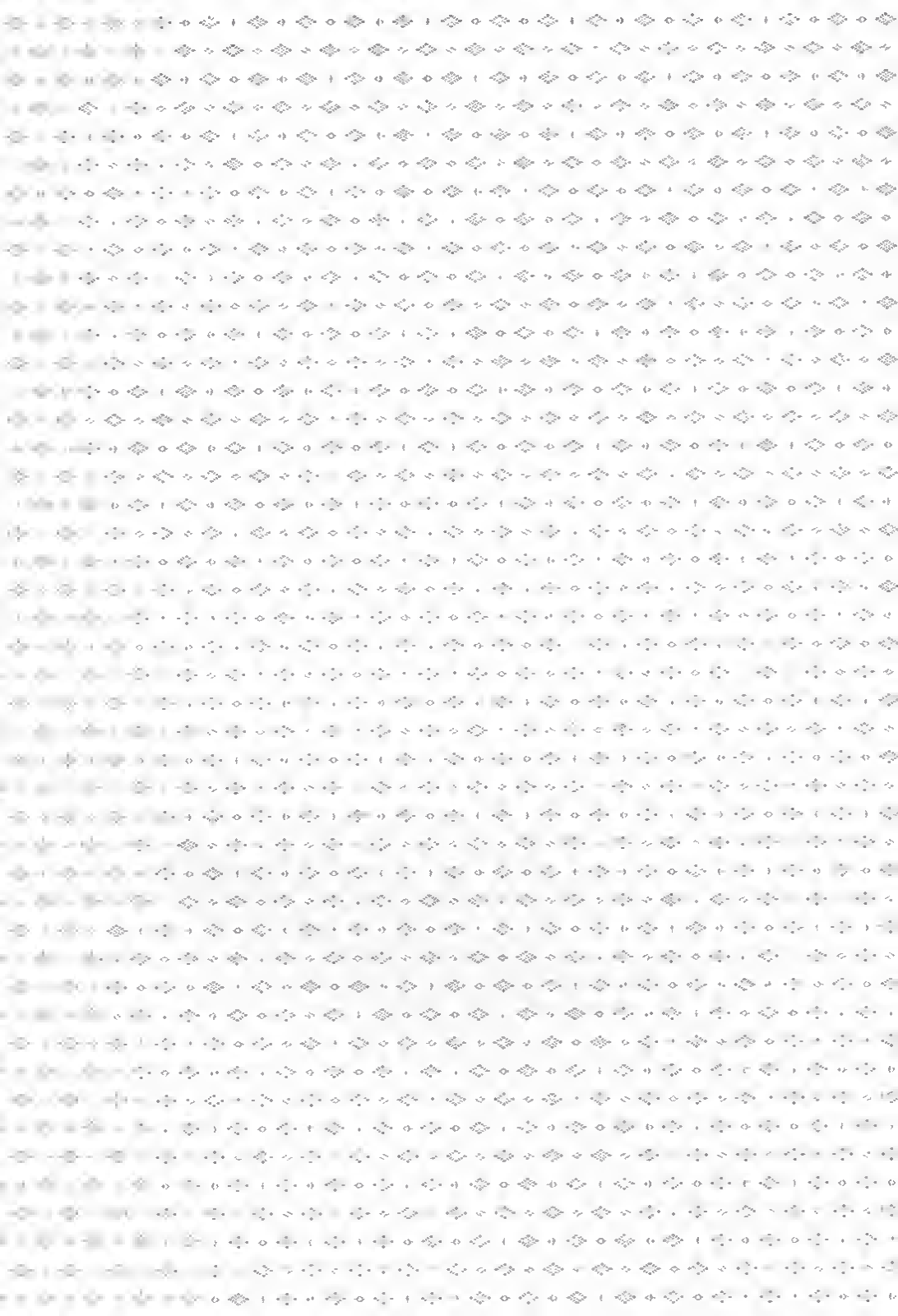

YUKA!

...
WELL...
A LOT
HAPPENED...
OH...
YUKA...
THIS IS...
...

えぇーっ
MANAGER!!
WE'RE ALL
FAKE
SANTAS.
YUP.
YOU'RE
YUKA-CHAN,
RIGHT?

ARE YOU GONNA
TELL YOUR FRIEND
THAT A SANTA
CLAUSE DOESN'T
EXIST
WE'RE SO FAKE
THAT WE CANNOT
EVEN FLY ON A
SLEDGE.
BUT WE'RE
HERE FOR
YOU.

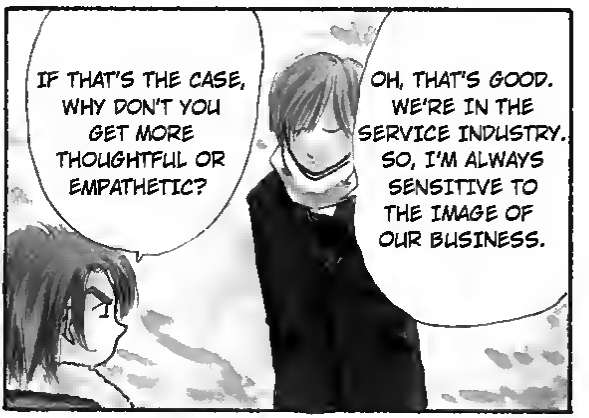

NO.
HE'S REAL.
OK, THEN, LET'S TAKE A PHOTO TOGETHER.
GET CLOSER, SO THAT WE ALL CAN BE IN THE PICTURE.
OH, NO, MY HORN WON'T BE IN.
WHAT HORN? FORGET IT, MANAGER.
WHY USING A CAMERA PHONE? WHERE'S A DIGITAL CAMERA?
I DON'T HAVE A DIGITAL CAMERA
YOU'VE WISHED FOR ONE FOR CHRISTMAS.



Nagomi Club no 12

I AM NOT DEAD, YET!!
EXCUSE ME! CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS DEAD BODY SECRETLY?

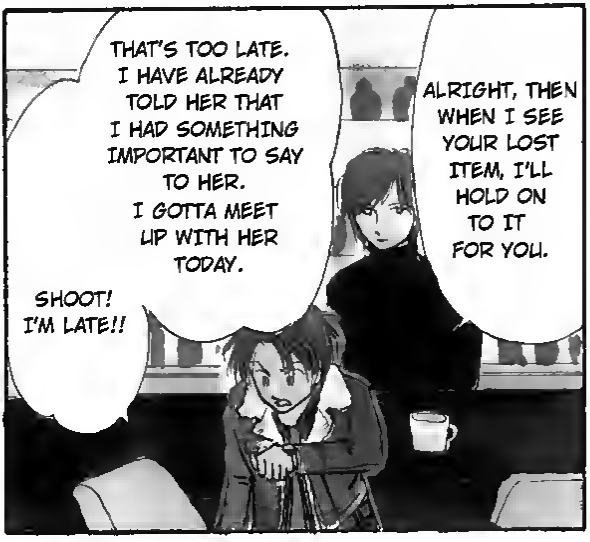
I GOTTA GET READY FOR THE DAY. SO, PLEASE GO AWAY.
DID YOU JUST HEAR WHAT I SAID!?


IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T YOU GET MORE THOUGHTFUL OR EMPATHETIC?
OH, THAT'S GOOD. WE'RE IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY. SO, I'M ALWAYS SENSITIVE TO THE IMAGE OF OUR BUSINESS.

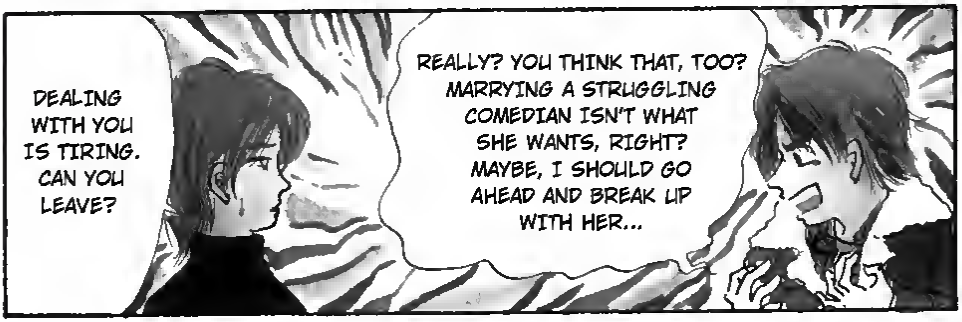
THAT'S SOMETHING PRECIOUS FOR ME.
WAIT A SEC. I DID LOSE SOMETHING HERE.
WE PROVIDE KINDNESS AND EMPATHY TO THOSE WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.
...A RING.
J...JEWELRY BOX OF...
LOST ITEM? WHAT IS IT?
EVERYONE'S SUPPOSED TO GET WELL-KNOWN WHEN WE START.
SO ANY POSSIBILITY TO BECOME FAMOUS?
I'M A STAND-UP COMEDIAN.
I WAS GOING TO PROPOSE TO MY GIRLFRIEND BY GIVING HER THE ING CASE AND TELL HER THAT I'D GET HER A HUGE RING ONCE I MADE A NAME FOR MYSELF.
A RING CASE?
BUT, MAYBE I SHOULD NOT PROPOSE TO HER. I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR 10 YEARS NOW. THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT I'LL GET FAMOUS.
SHE SHOULDN'T BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME...

BE NICE TO ME, MAN! I WANNA HEAR YOU SAY, "HOLD ON TIGHT!"
CERTAINLY, IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT AFTER 10 YEARS, YOU SHOULD QUIT. THAT'S WHAT A JUDGE OF M-1 SAID.

THEN, YOU'D BETTER GO NOW. YOU CAN PROPOSE TO HER WITHOUT THE RING CASE, RIGHT?
BUT...


THAT'S TOO LATE. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD HER THAT I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY TO HER. I GOTTA MEET UP WITH HER TODAY.
SHOOT! I'M LATE!!
ALRIGHT, THEN WHEN I SEE YOUR LOST ITEM, I'LL HOLD ON TO IT FOR YOU.

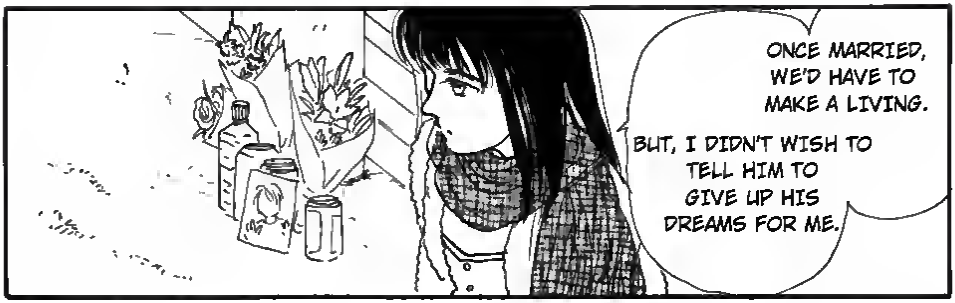
OR, SHE WOULD SAY NO.
MAYBE, LOSING THE CASE HERE MEANS I SHOULD NOT PROPOSE TO HER.


DEALING WITH YOU IS TIRING. CAN YOU LEAVE?
REALLY? YOU THINK THAT, TOO? MARRYING A STRUGGLING COMEDIAN ISN'T WHAT SHE WANTS, RIGHT? MAYBE, I SHOULD GO AHEAD AND BREAK UP WITH HER...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
YOU...
THAT'S BETTER. THIS IS A HOST CLUB, AFTER ALL,
GOT IT. I'M LEAVING NOW. I'M HEADED TO A BAR THAT LISTENS TO A GUY LIKE ME CRY AND WHINE.
MAYBE, YOU DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF EITHER CHOICE.
...OR YOU WISH TO MARRY YOUR GIRLFRIEND AND BE HAPPY.
EITHER YOU WANNA MAKE YOUR NAME AS A COMEDIAN...
I JUST WANT HER TO BE HAPPY.

I WONDER IF THE LADY OUTSIDE IS ALRIGHT IN THIS SNOW.
GOOD MORNING!
I SEE A LOT OF SNOWFALL OUT THERE.
GOOD MORNING!
A LADY? A CUSTOMER?
NO. YOU KNOW THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT AT THE INTERSECTION?
SINCE THEN, THERE HAS BEEN A WOMEN WHO LEAVES FLOWERS AT THE ACCIDENT SITE. I WONDER IF HER BOYFRIEND DIED THERE.

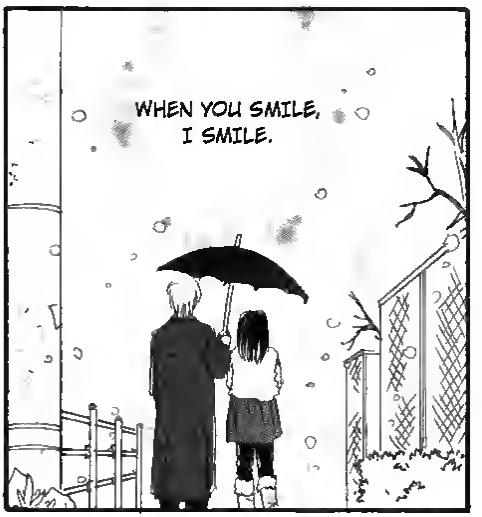
TAKE THIS.
YES?
EXCUSE ME ....
NOT EXACTLY HIS FRIEND...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS?
HE LEFT THIS WITH ME.
ME, TOO.
WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY. I WONDERED WHAT I SHOULD DO, IF HE PROPOSED TO ME.
DON'T KNOW... BUT HE SEEMED CONFUSED.
JUST THE CASE...?
I WONDER IF HE WAS THINKING ABOUT BREAKING UP WITH ME?


ONCE MARRIED, WE'D HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING.
BUT, I DIDN'T WISH TO TELL HIM TO GIVE UP HIS DREAMS FOR ME.

WHILE I WAS DECIDING, THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT...

HE SAID HE WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY.
P

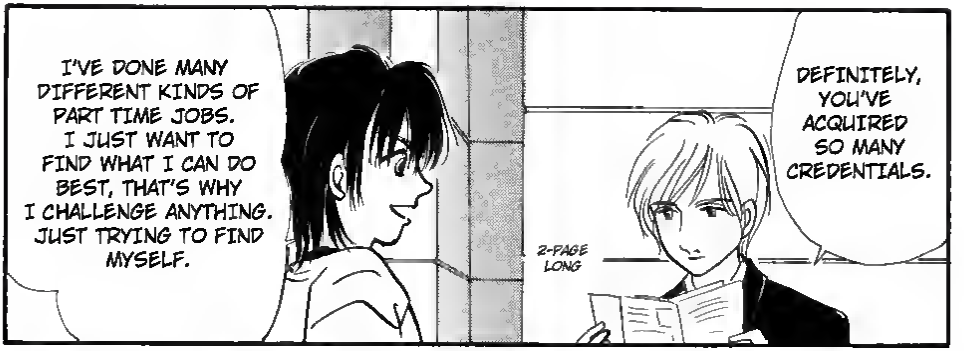
IT'S JUST AWFUL.
THIS IS THE WORST REGRET...



YOUR HAPPINESS
IS
MY HAPPINESS.

Nagomi Club no 13

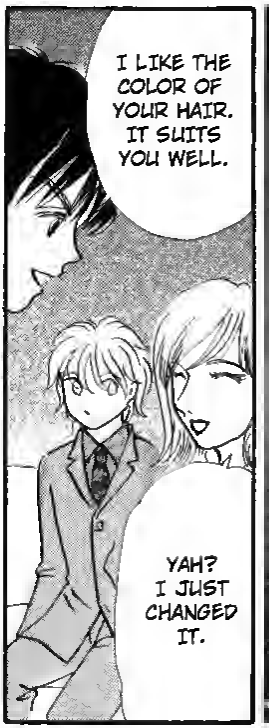
GOOD MORNING!
WHO IS THIS?
I HAVE ZERO EXPERIENCE. BUT AFTER COLLEGE, I WENT TO TWO SPECIALTY SCHOOLS, SO I HAVE MANY CREDENTIALS.
YOU'VE NEVER HELD A CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION, RIGHT? THEN, LET'S START YOU OUT AS A WAITER.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
NAOKI-KUN SPRAINED HIS ANKLE, SO HE CANNOT WORK FOR A WHILE. SO, RYOICHI-KUN IS GOING TO WORK HERE TEMPORARILY.


I'VE DONE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PART TIME JOBS. I JUST WANT TO FIND WHAT I CAN DO BEST, THAT'S WHY I CHALLENGE ANYTHING. JUST TRYING TO FIND MYSELF.
2-PAGE LONG
DEFINITELY, YOU'VE ACQUIRED SO MANY CREDENTIALS.

I DIDN'T EVEN TRY.
I FOUND MYSELF AT JUNIOR HIGH.
YOU FINISH SEARCH FOR YOURSELF BY THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL, I THINK.

HE'S JUST A WAITER. HE SHOULD KNOW HIS PLACE.
THE HOST CLUB I WORKED BEFORE WOULD YELL AT YOU AT THE BACK OF THE CLUB.
DON'T SWEAT IT MUCH. SHE WAS PLEASED WITH HIS COMMENT.

YOU SHOULD SAY SOME-THING ABOUT IT.


I LIKE THE COLOR OF YOUR HAIR. IT SUITS YOU WELL.
YAH? I JUST CHANGED IT.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB.
HERE IS YOUR DRINK ORDER MISS.
THANK YOU.

I TAKE NOTES DURING WORK LIKE WHAT MADE A CUSTOMER HAPPY, OR YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TECHNIQUES.
GOTTA TALK TO YOU... WHAT ARE YA DOING?
SURE. HEY, RYOICHI!!
HUH? SERI-OUSLY?
FOR REAL?
THEN, WHY NOT YOU SAY SOMETHING TO HIM?
HE'LL GET CARRIED AWAY.
HEY, MANAGER!
O, OH... YEAH?
YES, THEY ARE VERY HELPFUL.
MINE?
WHAT? OH, YES, YOU WORK VERY HARD.
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY WORK?
IF YOU'RE SEEKING SOME KIND OF CHALLENGE, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY DOMINO?
THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR YOU TO GIVE IT A SHOT.
THEN, LET ME BE THE HOST! I WANT TO TRY ANYTHING!

REALLY? I'LL DO MY BEST!!
OK, THEN, WHAT ABOUT A HELPER?
THEN, PLEASE!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I'VE BEEN DOING MY BEST TO LEARN MY JOB. TELL ME WHAT I HAVE DONE WRONG! I'LL CORRECT IT.
YOU AREN'T GOOD AT DEALING WITH PRESSURE, ARE YOU?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
HUH? CONCERN?
SO, WHAT KIND OF STUFF IS BOTHERING YOU? IF IT'S OK, TALK TO ME.
Y, YOU ARE FULL OF ENERGY, AREN'T YA?
HI THERE! I'M RYOICHI!!
RYOICHI-KUN! CAN YOU GO CHANGE THE ICE BUCKET?
YOU'RE JUDGE-MENTAL.
'CUZ COMING TO A HOST CLUB AND DRINKING ALCOHOL WITH A HOST INDICATES THE WEAKNESS OF YOUR MIND.
HE'S STILL A TRAINEE.

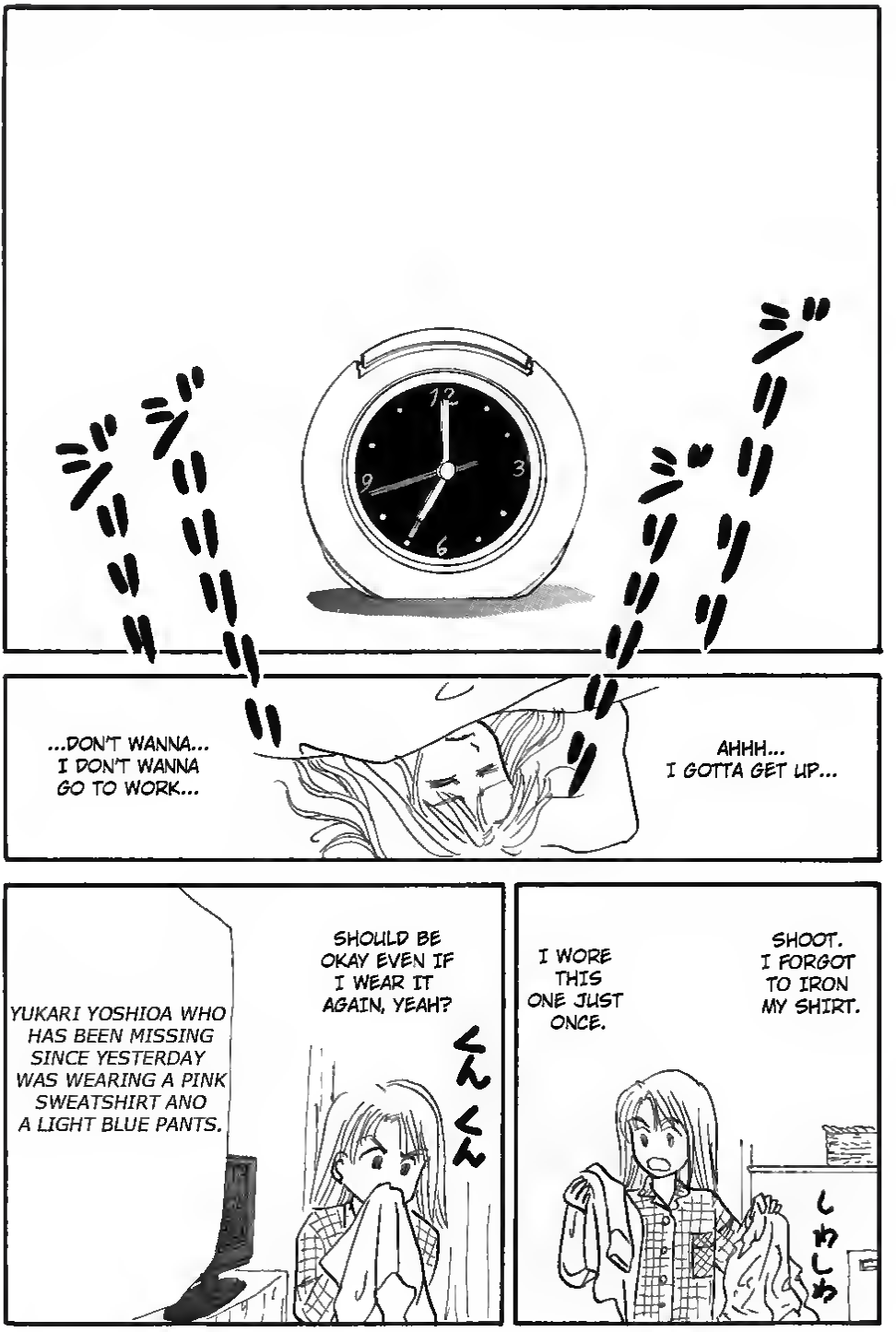
I WILL MAKE SURE TO APOLOGIZE TO POLAR BEARS. JUST GO GET SOME ICE.
HERE IS SOME ICE LEFT IN HERE.
IT'S WASTEFUL TO CHANGE IT TOO OFTEN. IT'LL LEAD TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO TAKE AN ONLINE COURSE?
YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR ISSUES. QUESTIONING IF ALL IS FINE AS IT IS MEANS YOU AREN'T SATISFIED WITH YOURSELF NOW.
TO BECOME WHAT YOU WANT TO BE, YOU GOTTA CHANGE.
RYOICHI!!
I THINK YOU ARE WRONG!
YOU, AGAIN!?
I SEE.
... SO THAT'S THE STORY ...
NOT NEGATING THEM. I WAS GIVING ADVICE.
YOU CANNOT NEGATE A CUSTOMER.
WHY NOT?
HE'S NOT COMPETENT ENOUGH TO BE A HOST, MANAGER!!

I WAS THINKING FOR HER. THAT'S BETTER FOR HER THAN YOU JUST NODDING.
THAT'S JUST YOUR OPINION. YOU WERE CONDESCENDING.
I STOPPED HER FROM MAKING A WRONG DECISION.
カチーン
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'S GOT NO CONFIDENCE. WHAT THE HELL IS "SEARCHING FOR MYSELF" YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE?
BEFORE YOU SEARCH FOR YOURSELF, UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.
YOU SHOULDN'T BELITTLE YOURSELF! HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE AS A HOST!!
THEY DON'T COME HERE TO RECEIEVE ADVICE FROM A HOST.
ギョッ
H...HE'S CRYING!?
HE'S A MATURE MAN...
WAHHH
OK, TIME TO STOP.
AHH...

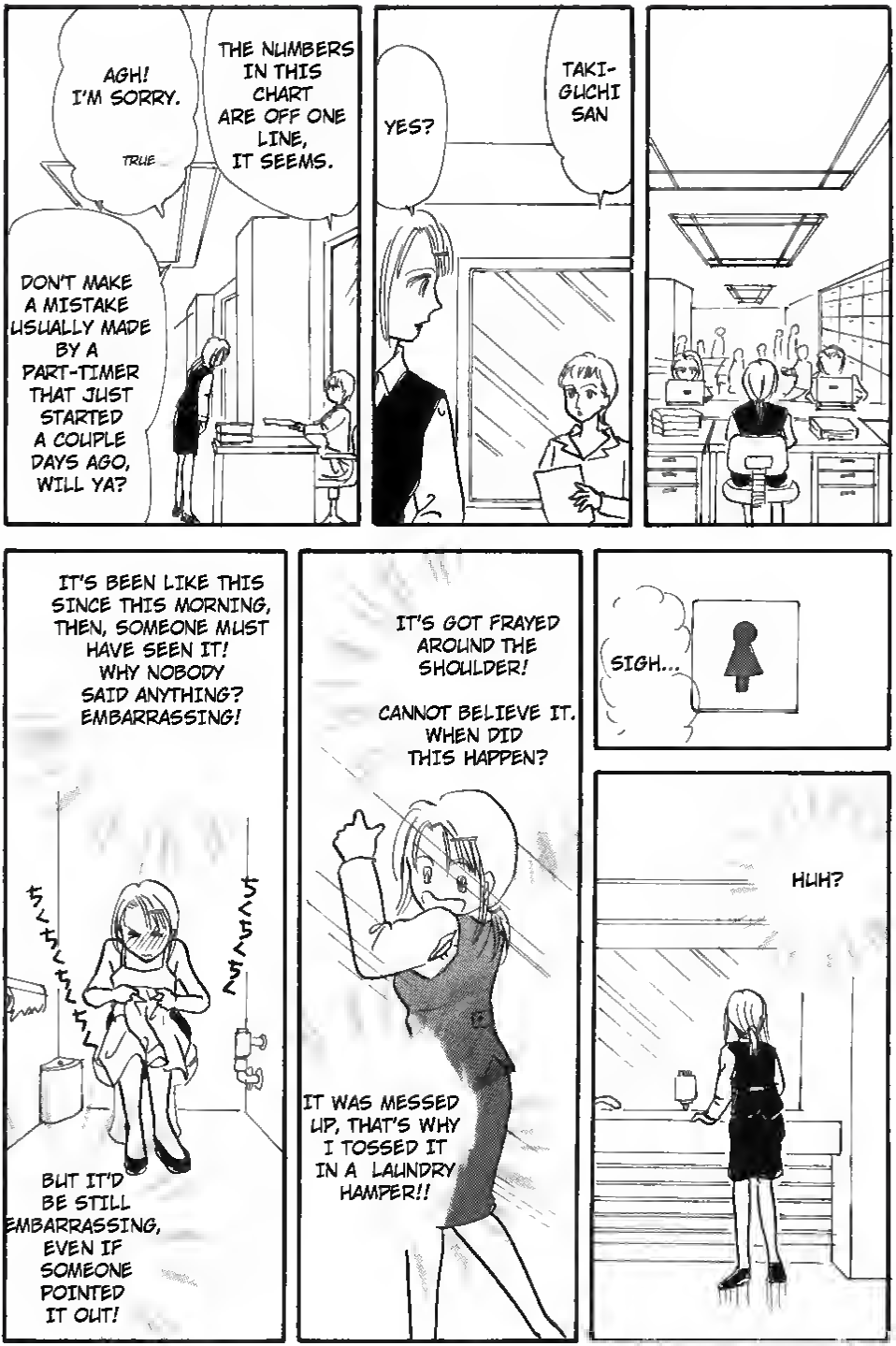
ANYONE WANTS TO CHOOSE A RIGHT WAY.
WHY? WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME? I AM JUST DOING MY BEST SO HARD...
OH, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY. JUST...
おーいおい
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD! YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH?
THERE'S A CASE WHERE YOU FIND YOURSELF ON THE RIGHT PATH AFTER CHOOSING A WRONG ONE.
GOT IT!
I GOT IT NOW!!
SO QUICK TO GET IT!!
IF SO, WHETHER YOU CHOOSE A RIGHT WAY OR NOT, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORK AT IT SO HARD. EVEN IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO FEEL SAD ABOUT IT. RIGHT?
... YOU SEEM TO BE TRYING TO FIND A RIGHT OPTION.
BUT, THERE'S A 50/50 CHANCE OF RIGHT OR WRONG.

HUH? HEY!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERYTHING!
I'VE MADE MY DECISION.
HE SENT US A POSTCARD.
HE INTENDS TO CHANGE HIMSELF.
INDIA!!!
HE'S IN INDIA.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW?
THEN, HE QUIT.
WELL, GETTING LOST IS FUN SOMETIMES.
I WONDER IF HE'S LOST.

Nagomi Club no.14

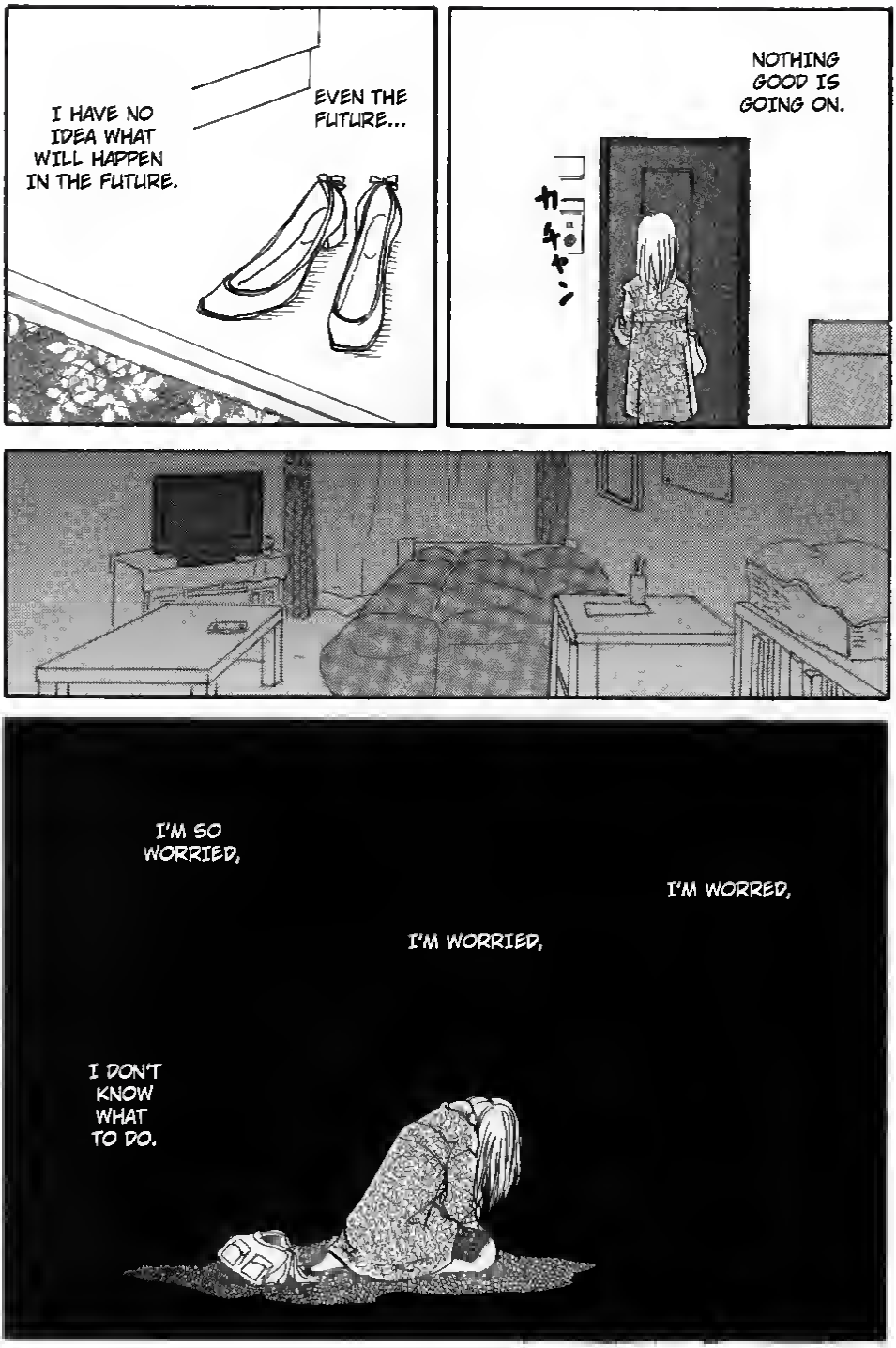

...DON'T WANNA... I DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK...
AHHH... I GOTTA GET UP...
YUKARI YOSHIOA WHO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY WAS WEARING A PINK SWEATSHIRT ANO A LIGHT BLUE PANTS.
SHOULD BE OKAY EVEN IF I WEAR IT AGAIN, YEAH?
んんん
I WORE THIS ONE JUST ONCE.
SHOOT. I FORGOT TO IRON MY SHIRT.
しわしわ

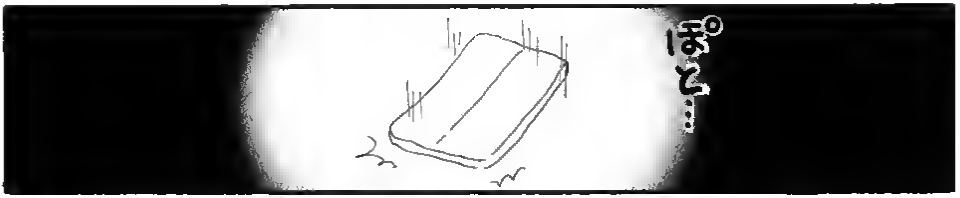
ピッ…
GOT NO TIME TO BE WATCHING TV!!
はっ!!
ドタドタ
THE POLICE IS INVESTIGATING IT AS A CRIME AND AN ACCIDENT.
THE LITTLE GIRL I SAW ON THE NEWS LAST NIGHT HASN'T BEEN FOUND, YET.
WHY? WHY NOW? WHEN I GOT NO TIME!!
あわ
あわ
I GOT A RUN IN MY STOCKING!
WHAT?
MAYBE NOT.
BUT, THEN, YOU GOTTA BE SENSITIVE, 'CUZ YOU WOULD KNOW HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST, YEA?
I GOT THIS FOR WHITE DAY.
WOW! WHAT YOU ARE WEARING IS CUUUTE.
GOOD MORNING!
I SEE. I SHOULD HAVE GONE SHOPPING WITH HIM. RIGHT, TAKIGUCHI-SAN?
I GOT AN ACCESSARY. BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF IT.

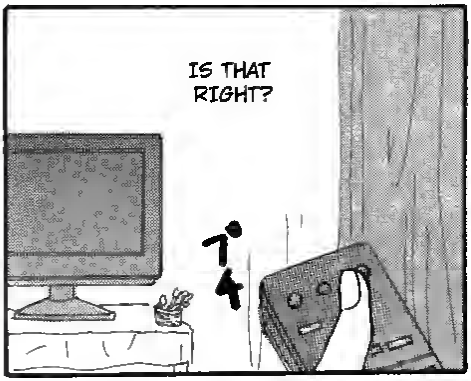

AGH! I'M SORRY.
TRUE
THE NUMBERS IN THIS CHART ARE OFF ONE LINE, IT SEEMS.
DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE USUALLY MADE BY A PART-TIMER THAT JUST STARTED A COUPLE DAYS AGO, WILL YA?
TAKI-GUCHI SAN
YES?
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THIS MORNING, THEN, SOMEONE MUST HAVE SEEN IT! WHY NOBODY SAID ANYTHING? EMBARRASSING!
ちんちんちん
ちんちんちん
BUT IT'D BE STILL EMBARRASSING, EVEN IF SOMEONE POINTED IT OUT!
IT'S GOT FRAYED AROUND THE SHOULDER!
CANNOT BELIEVE IT. WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
IT WAS MESSED UP, THAT'S WHY I TOSSED IT IN A LAUNDRY HAMPER!!
SIGH...
HUH?

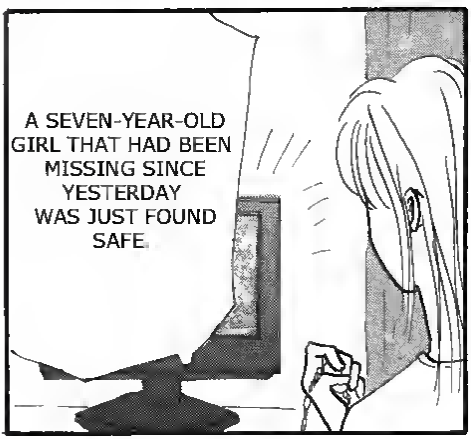
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
SEE YOU TOMO-RROW
THIS COMPANY IS GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME. PEOPLE LIKE US WHO JUST DO WHATEVER JOB CAN BE LAID OFF ANYTIME. SO, JUST BE CAREFUL. ALRIGH?
Y...YEAH. I'LL.
YEA... GOT SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF.
YOU TOOK A WHILE OUT THERE.
REALLY?
MANAGER WAS ASKING ABOUT YOU,
DON'T SAY THAT. JUST TAKE THIS PLEASE.
NO...
TAKE THIS.

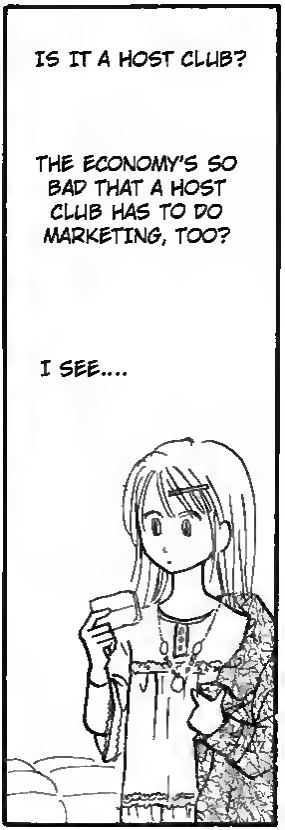
NO WRRIES. THIS ONE IS WET TISSUE. SO, IT'S VERY GENTLE ON YOUR SKIN.
MOIST AND SOFT WITH NATURAL SQUALENE
HE'S SO PERSISTENT.
TISSUE PAPAER I GET ON THE STREETS HURTS MY NOSE. SO, I DON'T WANT ANY.
OH, YEAH? THEN, CAN I HAVE ONE?
HERE.
I HOPE SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU.


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.
EVEN THE FUTURE...
NOTHING GOOD IS GOING ON.
カチャン
I'M SO WORRIED,
I'M WORRED,
I'M WORRIED,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

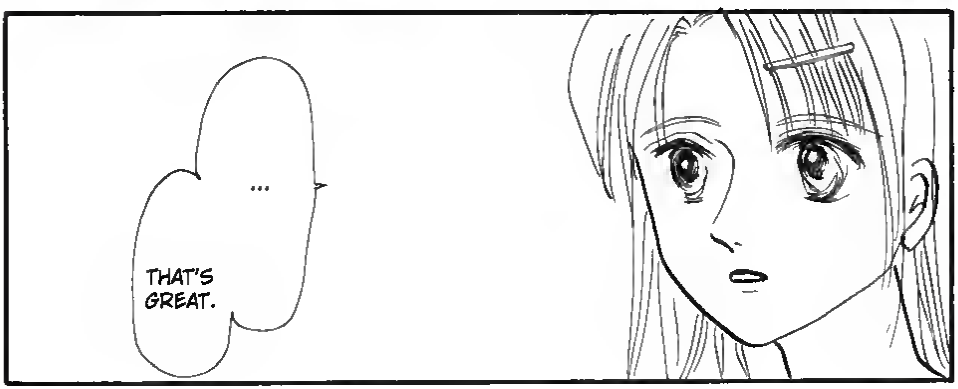

아앗...!

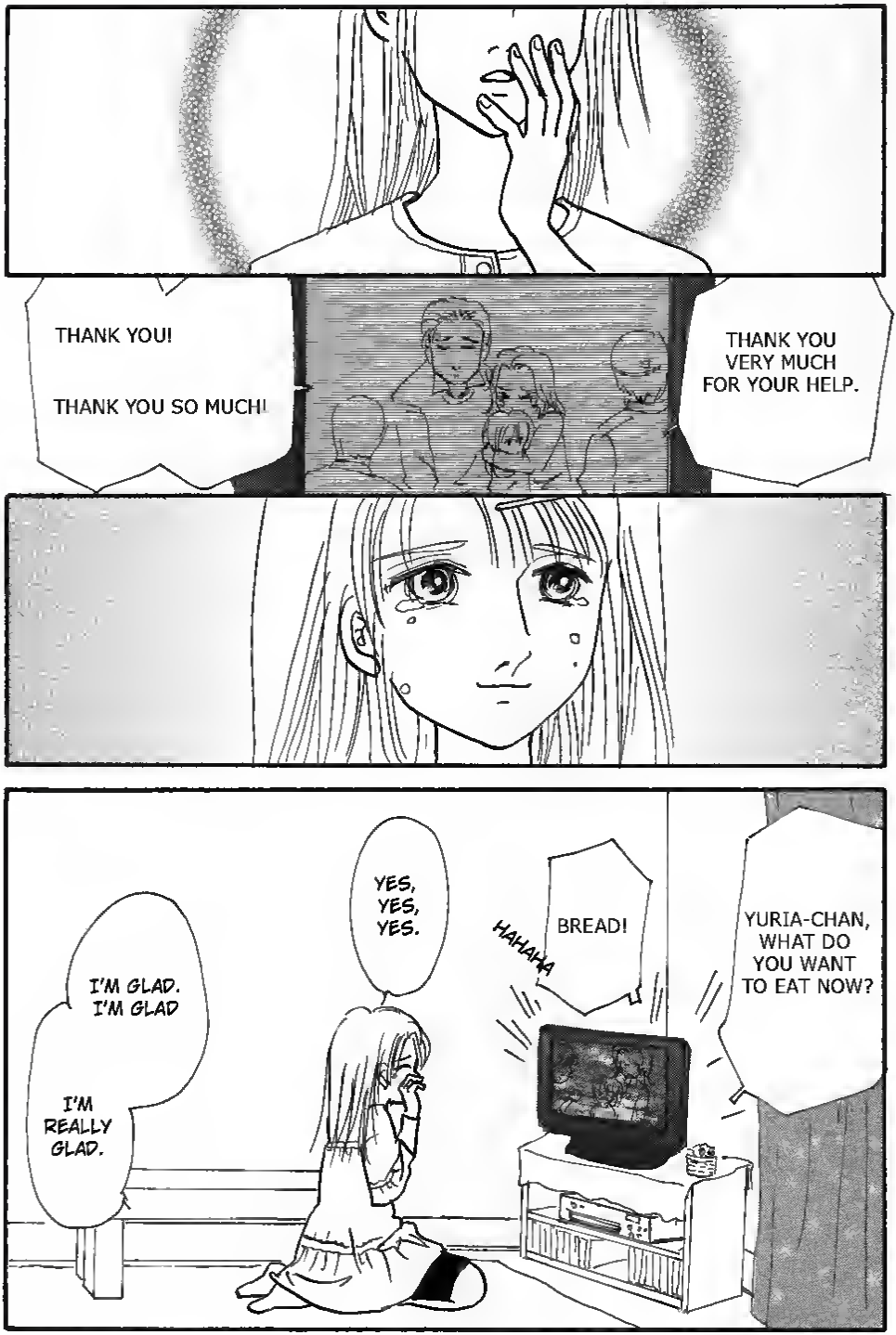

IS THAT RIGHT?


A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL THAT HAD BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY WAS JUST FOUND SAFE.


IS IT A HOST CLUB?
THE ECONOMY'S SO BAD THAT A HOST CLUB HAS TO DO MARKETING, TOO?
I SEE....

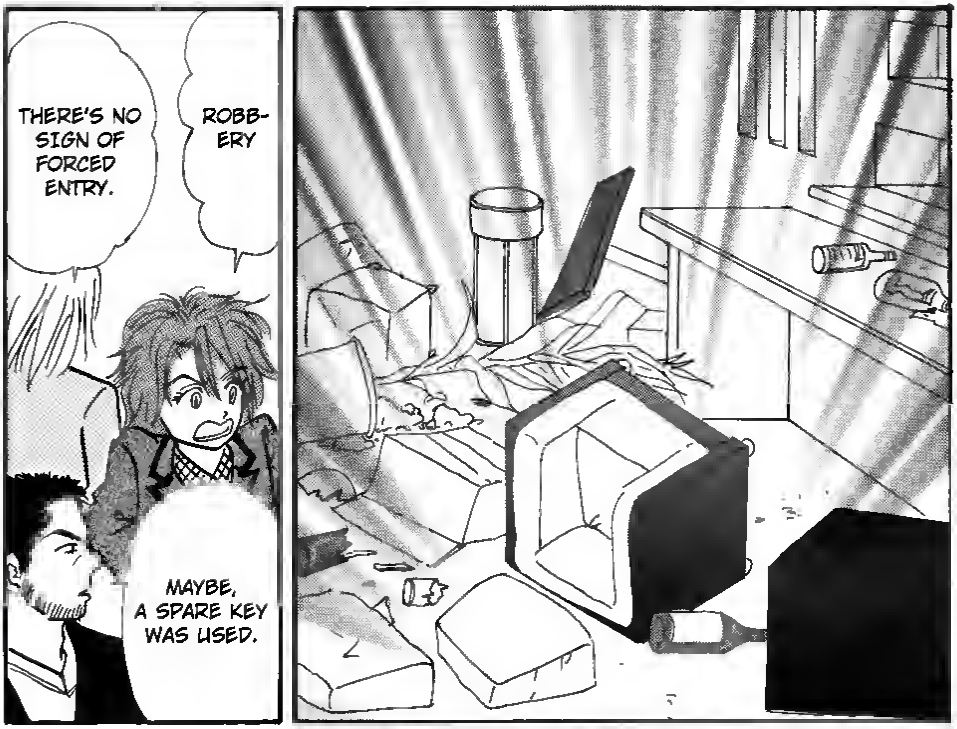
OH....
...THE TISSUE PAPER I GOT EARLIER...
...NAGOMI CLUB?


...
THAT'S GREAT.

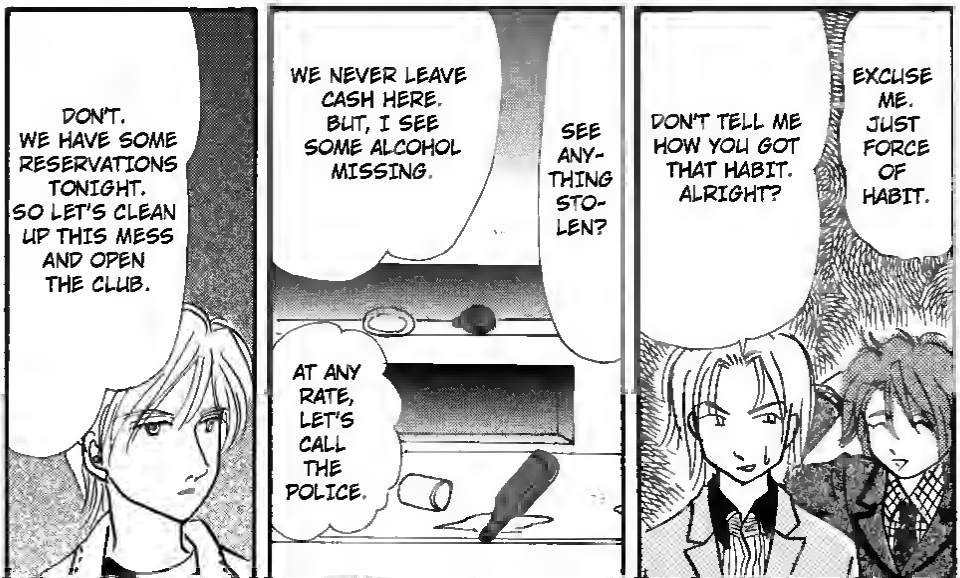

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.
I'M GLAD. I'M GLAD
I'M REALLY GLAD.
YES, YES, YES.
HAHAHA
BREAD!
YURIA-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT NOW?

Nagomi Club no.15

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, MANAGER.
I JUST MET WITH AN INTERIOR DESIGNER. LET'S GET READY QUICKLY.
YOU'RE KINDA LATE TODAY. YOU'RE ALWAYS HERE BEFORE WE GET HERE.
HEY!!
DON'T KNOW, YET.
ARE YOU CHANGING THE DESIGN OF THE INSIDE?

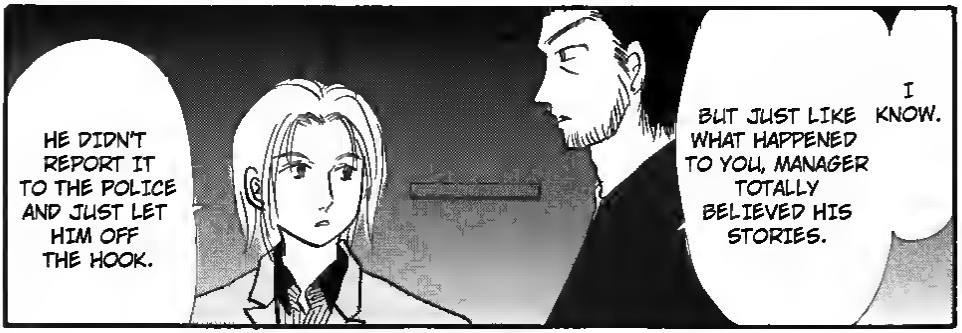

ROBB-ERY
THERE'S NO SIGN OF FORCED ENTRY.
MAYBE, A SPARE KEY WAS USED.

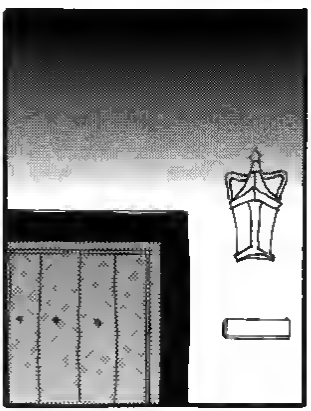
WHO SAID YOU DID IT?
NOT ME! IT'S NOT ME!


DON'T. WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS TONIGHT. SO LET'S CLEAN UP THIS MESS AND OPEN THE CLUB.
WE NEVER LEAVE CASH HERE. BUT, I SEE SOME ALCOHOL MISSING.
SEE ANY-THING STO-LEN?
AT ANY RATE, LET'S CALL THE POLICE.
DON'T TELL ME HOW YOU GOT THAT HABIT. ALRIGHT?
EXCUSE ME. JUST FORCE OF HABIT.

WE CANNOT TURN DOWN OUR CUSTOMERS WHEN WE'RE HAVING A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. C'MON.
GO-SAN!
MANAGER SAID IT'S ALRIGHT. SO, LET'S CLEAN THIS UP.
BUT, WE GOT ROBBED.
GOOD WORK! SEE YA TOMORROW!
GOOD WORK!
WHEN WE JUST OPENED, THERE WAS A HOST WITH A HABIT TO STEAL.
AT FIRST, HE COMMITED MINOR CRIMES, LIKE STEALING SAKE AND STUFF. SO, WE ACTED LIKE WE DIDN'T KNOW. BUT, WE CAUGHT HIM STEALING MONEY.
AND GO-SAN, YOU KNOW, TOO.
...
...MAYBE SOMEONE MANAGER KNOWS?
HUH?
...
WHAT'S UP, YUYA?
THE BURGLAR IS...

I DIDN'T LIE! MY SISTER WAS REALLY SICK. AND I NEVER STOLE MONEY!
SO, WE WERE GONNA TAKE HIM TO THE POLICE. THEN, HE BEGAN WHINING ABOUT HIS FAMILY BEING SICK. JUST LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.

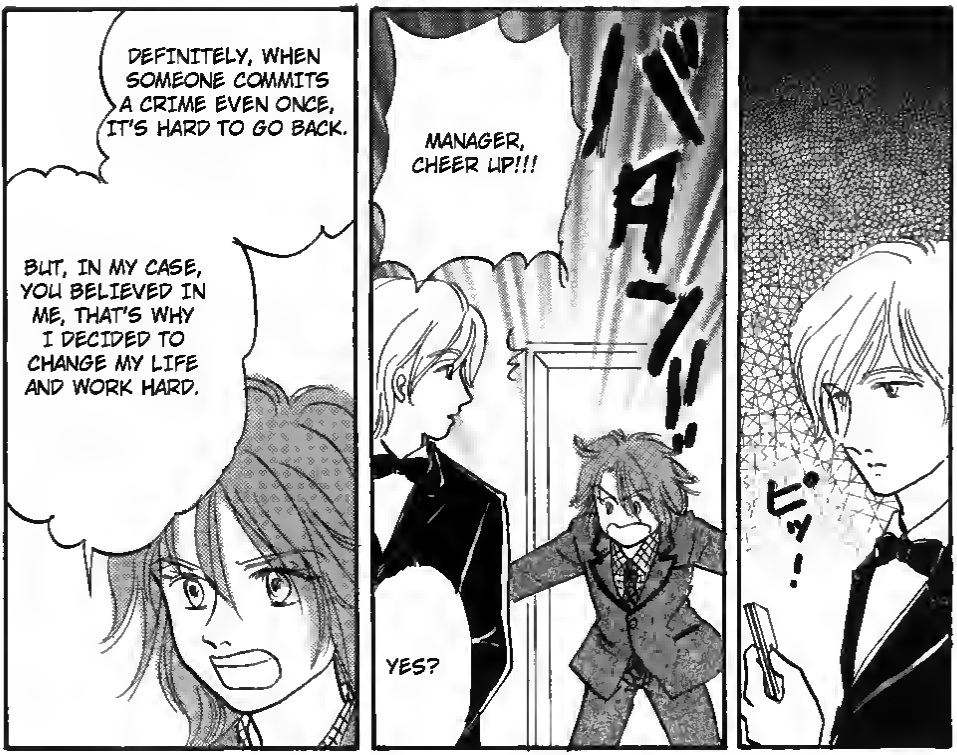

HE DIDN'T REPORT IT TO THE POLICE AND JUST LET HIM OFF THE HOOK.
I KNOW. BUT JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MANAGER TOTALLY BELIEVED HIS STORIES.

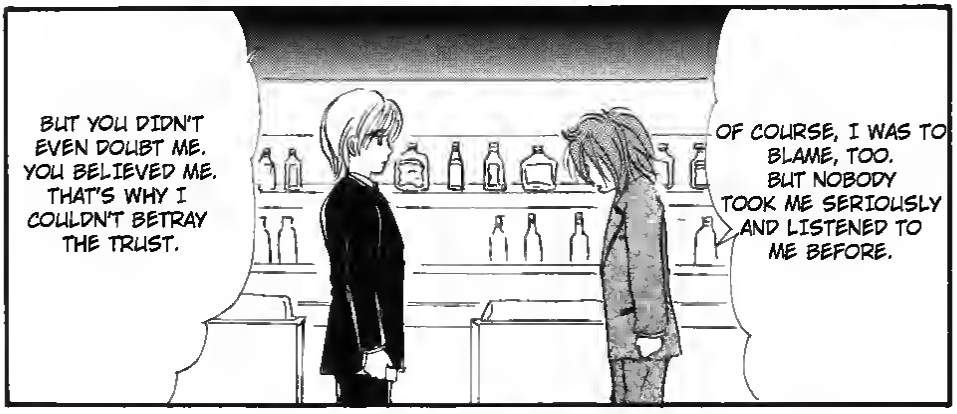


I SEE....
OK...
THEN...

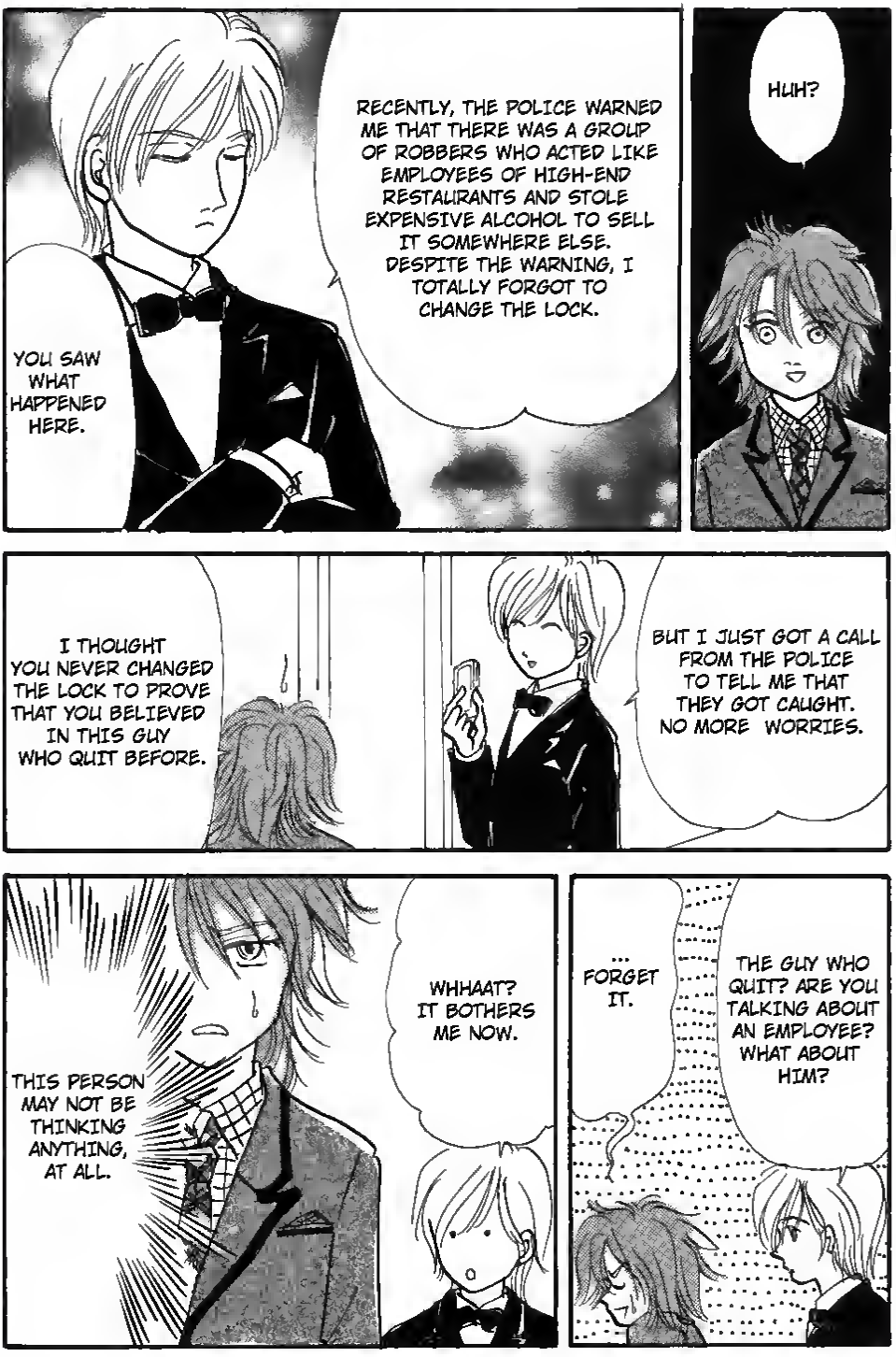
I FORGOT SOMETHING AT THE CLUB. GOTTA GO BACK. SEE YOU TOMORROW!
YAH? OK!

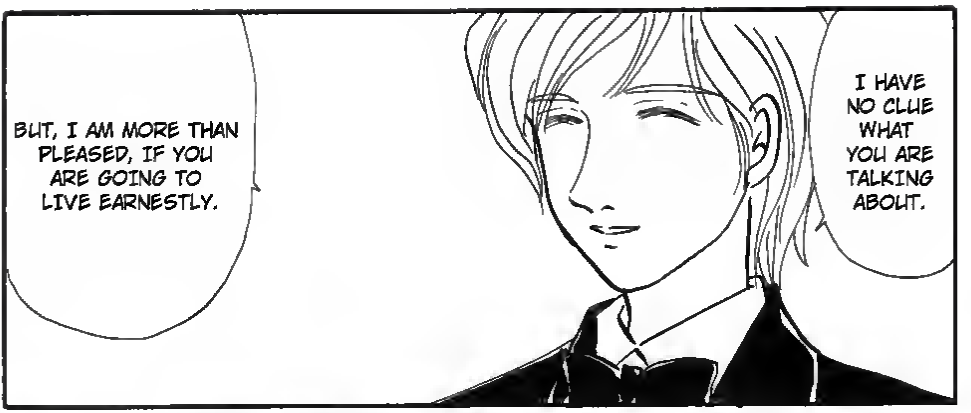
...I TOLD MANAGER TO CHANGE THE LOCK.
IF SOMEONE BROKE IN, USING A SPARE KEY, THEN IT MUST BE HIM...
HE'S ALWAYS ABSENT-MINDED.

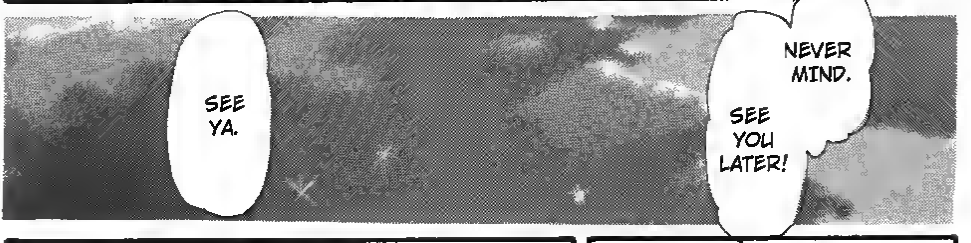

DEFINITELY, WHEN SOMEONE COMMITS A CRIME EVEN ONCE, IT'S HARD TO GO BACK.
BUT, IN MY CASE, YOU BELIEVED IN ME, THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO CHANGE MY LIFE AND WORK HARD.
MANAGER, CHEER UP!!!
バーン!!
YES?
ピッ!

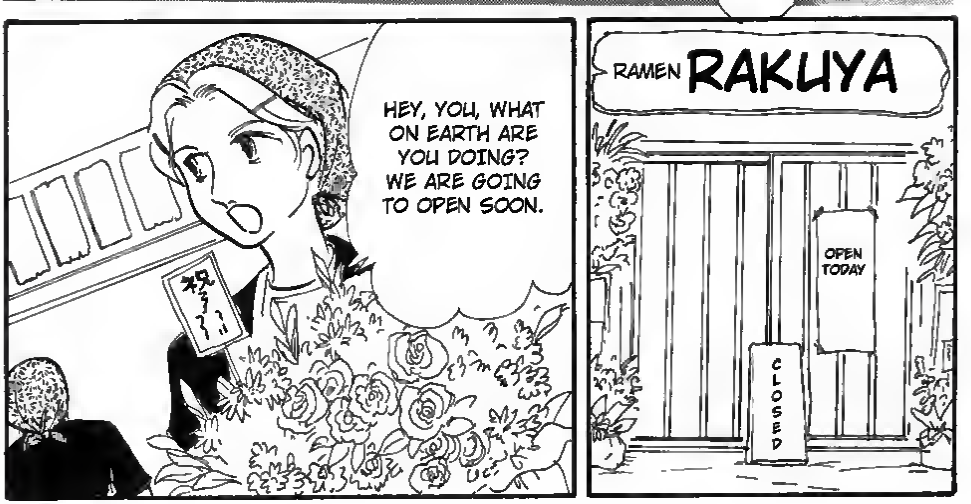

BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN DOUBT ME. YOU BELIEVED ME. THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T BETRAY THE TRUST.
OF COURSE, I WAS TO BLAME, TOO. BUT NOBODY TOOK ME SERIOUSLY AND LISTENED TO ME BEFORE.

TODAY THE ROBBER GOT ARRESTED.
THERE'S A PERSON, LIKE THE ROBBER WHO BROKE INTO THE CLUB. BUT AS LONG AS YOU KEEP BELIEVING...


RECENTLY, THE POLICE WARNED ME THAT THERE WAS A GROUP OF ROBBERS WHO ACTED LIKE EMPLOYEES OF HIGH-END RESTAURANTS AND STOLE EXPENSIVE ALCOHOL TO SELL IT SOMEWHERE ELSE. DESPITE THE WARNING, I TOTALLY FORGOT TO CHANGE THE LOCK.
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU NEVER CHANGED THE LOCK TO PROVE THAT YOU BELIEVED IN THIS GUY WHO QUIT BEFORE.
BUT I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THE POLICE TO TELL ME THAT THEY GOT CAUGHT. NO MORE WORRIES.
THIS PERSON MAY NOT BE THINKING ANYTHING, AT ALL.
WHHAAT? IT BOTHERS ME NOW.
... FORGET IT.
THE GUY WHO QUIT? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT AN EMPLOYEE? WHAT ABOUT HIM?

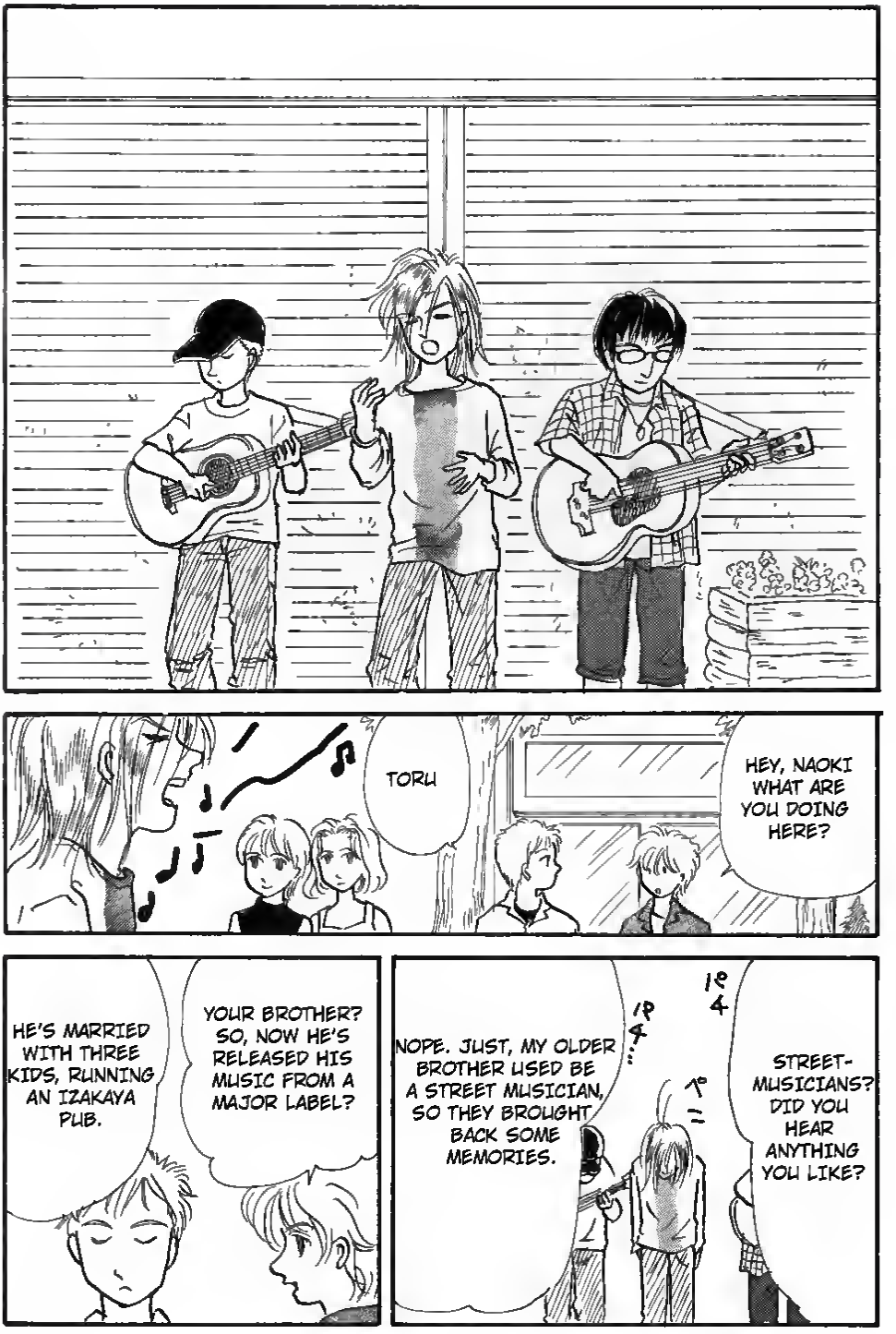

I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT, I AM MORE THAN PLEASED, IF YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE EARNESTLY.


NEVER MIND.
SEE YOU LATER!
SEE YA.

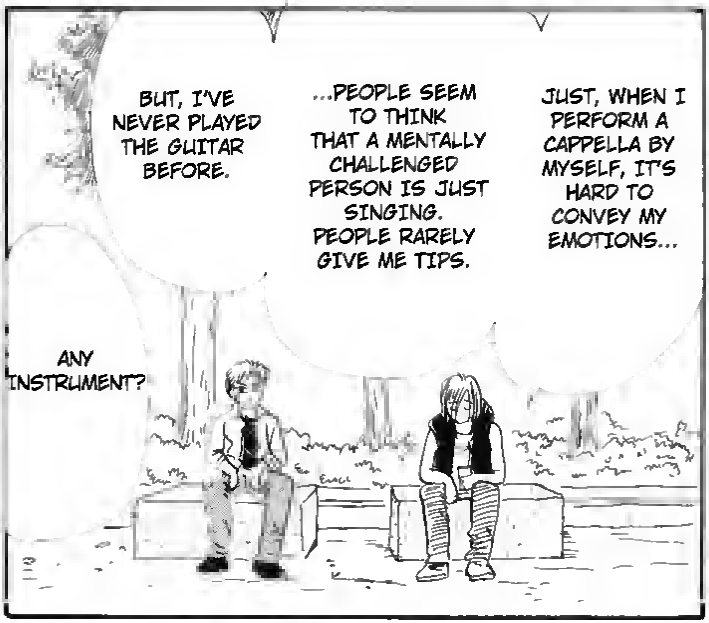

HEY, YOU, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING? WE ARE GOING TO OPEN SOON.
RAMEN RAKUYA
OPEN TODAY
CLOSED

OH, YEAH, THE PERSON WHO LET YOU GO, EVEN THOUGH YOU STOLE THEIR MONEY?
YOU USED TO WORK?
I'M WRITING TO THE MANAGER OF THE HOST CLUB I USED TO WORK AT TO LET HIM KNOW ABOUT THE GRAND OPENING.
THAT'S WHY YOU ENDURED HARD TRAINING AT MY DAD'S RAMEN SHOP?
YEAH. HE TOTALLY BELIEVED MY MADE-UP STORIES OF MY SICK FAMILY. I FELT BAD ABOUT IT.
EXACTLY.
I'M VERY GRATEFUL.
NEW OPE
ラーメン らくや

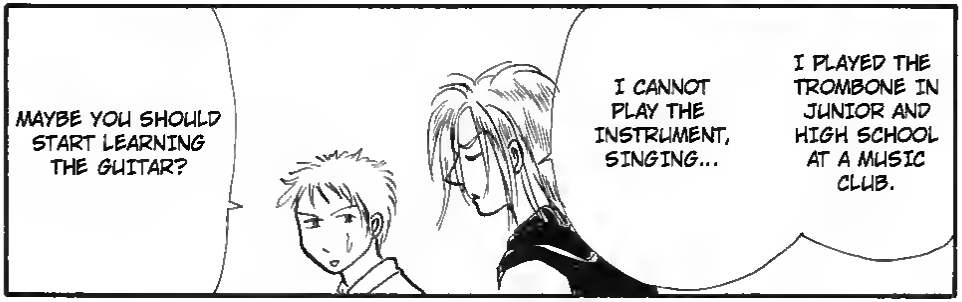
Nagomi Club no 16

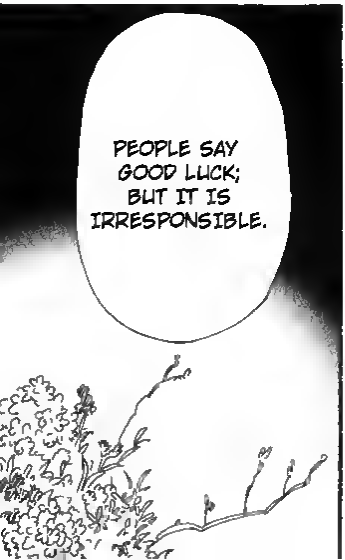

TORU
HEY, NAOKI WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
STREET-MUSICIANS? DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING YOU LIKE?
NOPE. JUST, MY OLDER BROTHER USED BE A STREET MUSICIAN, SO THEY BROUGHT BACK SOME MEMORIES.
YOUR BROTHER? SO, NOW HE'S RELEASED HIS MUSIC FROM A MAJOR LABEL?
HE'S MARRIED WITH THREE KIDS, RUNNING AN IZAKAYA PUB.

THANKS A LOT!
ちゃりーん
THAT'S USUALLY HOW THINGS TURN OUT.
MORE DAYS HAVE PASSED.
NO GUITAR PLAYER. HE'S LEFT, TOO. NOW, THE ONLY ONE'S LEFT.
SOME TIME LATER
WELL, TWO PLAYERS CAN MAKE IT WITHOUT THE BASS PLAYER.
A FEW DAYS LATER
THEY'RE OUT HERE AGAIN TODAY.
HUH?
HAH? NO INSTRUMENT? CANNOT PLAY THE GUITAR?

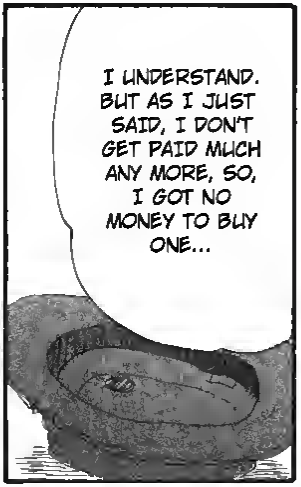

BUT, I'VE NEVER PLAYED THE GUITAR BEFORE.
...PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK THAT A MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSON IS JUST SINGING. PEOPLE RARELY GIVE ME TIPS.
JUST, WHEN I PERFORM A CAPPELLA BY MYSELF, IT'S HARD TO CONVEY MY EMOTIONS...
ANY INSTRUMENT?

EVERYONE JUST PASSES ME BY IGNORING ME. YOU ARE THE FIRST ONE TO TALK TO ME.

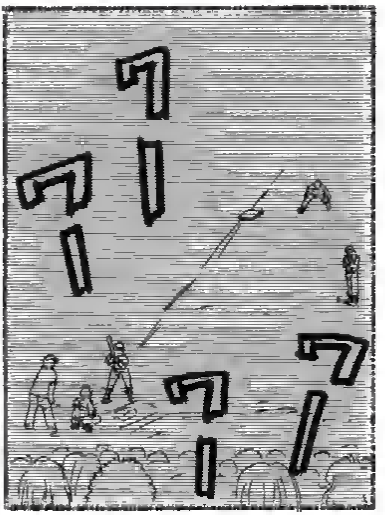

MAYBE YOU SHOULD START LEARNING THE GUITAR?
I CANNOT PLAY THE INSTRUMENT, SINGING...
I PLAYED THE TROMBONE IN JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL AT A MUSIC CLUB.


PEOPLE SAY GOOD LUCK; BUT IT IS IRRESPONSIBLE.

THANKS.
WELL, GOOD LUCK.


I UNDERSTAND. BUT AS I JUST SAID, I DON'T GET PAID MUCH ANY MORE, SO, I GOT NO MONEY TO BUY ONE...

THAT'S RIGHT. WE USE THAT PHRASE JUST LIKE SAYING HELLO SO LIGHTLY.
IT'S NOT ADVISABLE TO SAY GOOD LUCK TO PEOPLE WHO ARE DEPRESSED.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY GOOD LUCK? HE'S BEEN OUT OF LUCK, AND HE HAS BEEN FEELING AT A LOSS. IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO TELL HIM HOW TO BRING BACK GOOD LUCK TO MAKE IT BETTER?
I BELONGED TO A CHEERING SQUAD BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HI! YO!
YOU DID?
REALLY? I WAS IN CHEER LEADING.
I USED TO SAY THAT ALL THE TIME.
MA-NA-GER?
MAYBE, WE SHOULDN'T SAY GOOD LUCK WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT?
ESPE-CIALLY TODAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAOKI-KUN?
I WAS IN AN IGO CLUB,
GOT BRUISED EVERYDAY.
WE WERE AIMING TO BECOME NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION. IT WAS EVEN HARDER THAN ANY OTHER SPORTS CLUBS,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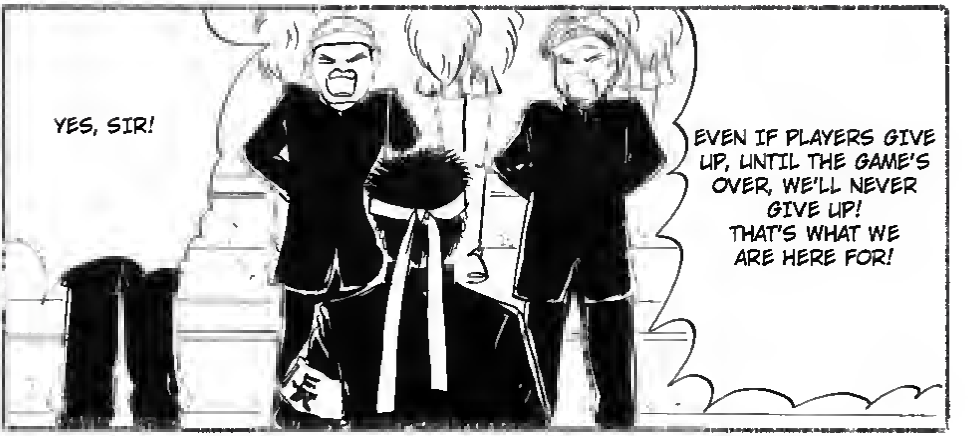
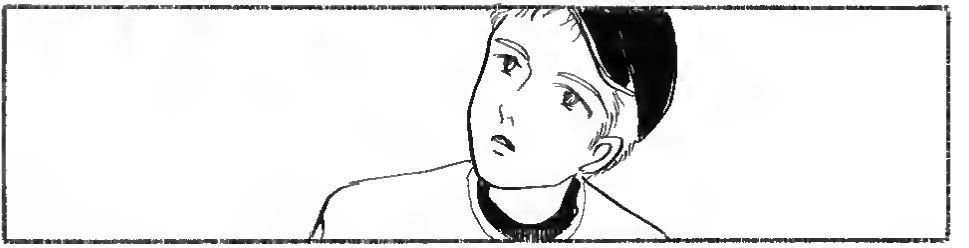
BASE-BALL CLUB,
FOR REAL? HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYER?
BUT I SUCKED AT IT.
I WAS A RESERVE.

OH, PLE-ASE. NOT ME.
DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE.
DON'T WANNA BE THE LAST BATTER.
SECOND HALF OF THE SIXTH INNING. TWO OUTS AT 12 TO NOTHING. ONE MORE PLAYER AND IT'LL BE A LOSS OF THE GAME.

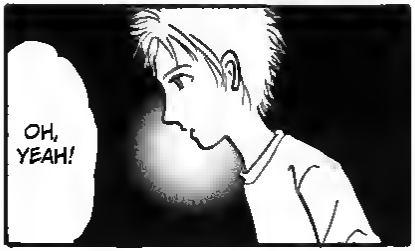
WE'RE THE CHEERING SQUAD!!!
NOT TO US.
CHEE-RING SQU-AD.

YOU GUYS GOT NO SPIRIT!!
ﾄﾞｷｯ

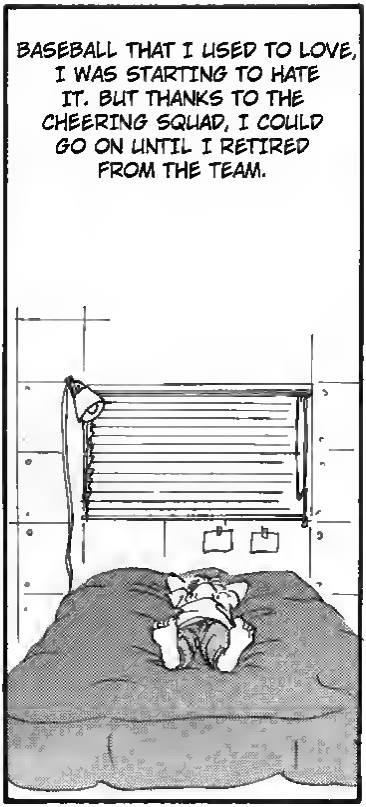

YES, SIR!
EVEN IF PLAYERS GIVE UP, UNTIL THE GAME'S OVER, WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP! THAT'S WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR!



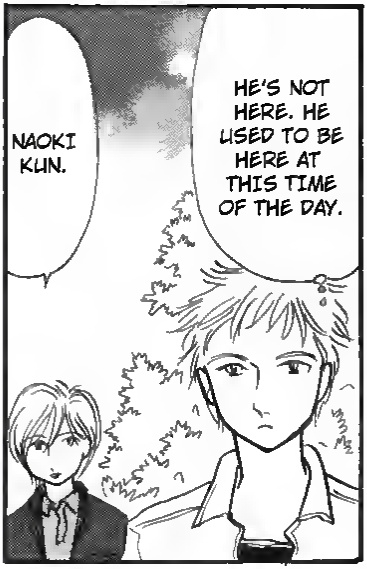
FUKU-SHIMA!
YES
YOU'RE THE PINCH HITTER.
Y...YES
PINCH HITTER FUKUSHIMA-KUN NUMBER 14.
ワー ワー ワー
GOOD LUCK! FUKUSHIMA!
...
がんばれ がんばれ ふくしーまー がんばれ がんばれ
カッセー カッセー ふくしーまー カッセー カッセ

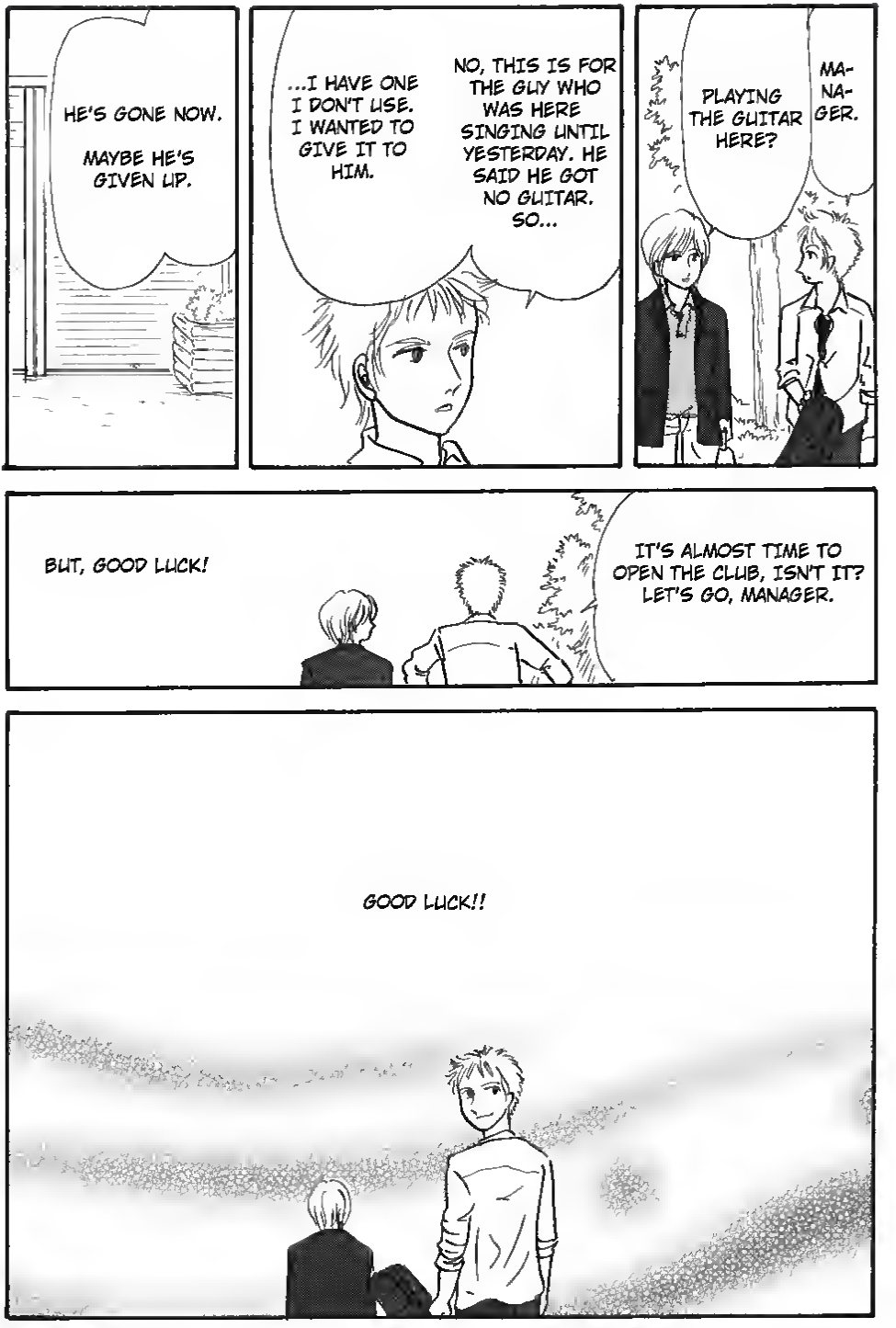

OH, YEAH!

THERE SHOULD BE A GUITAR MY BROTHER LEFT BEHIND.


BASEBALL THAT I USED TO LOVE, I WAS STARTING TO HATE IT. BUT THANKS TO THE CHEERING SQUAD, I COULD GO ON UNTIL I RETIRED FROM THE TEAM.

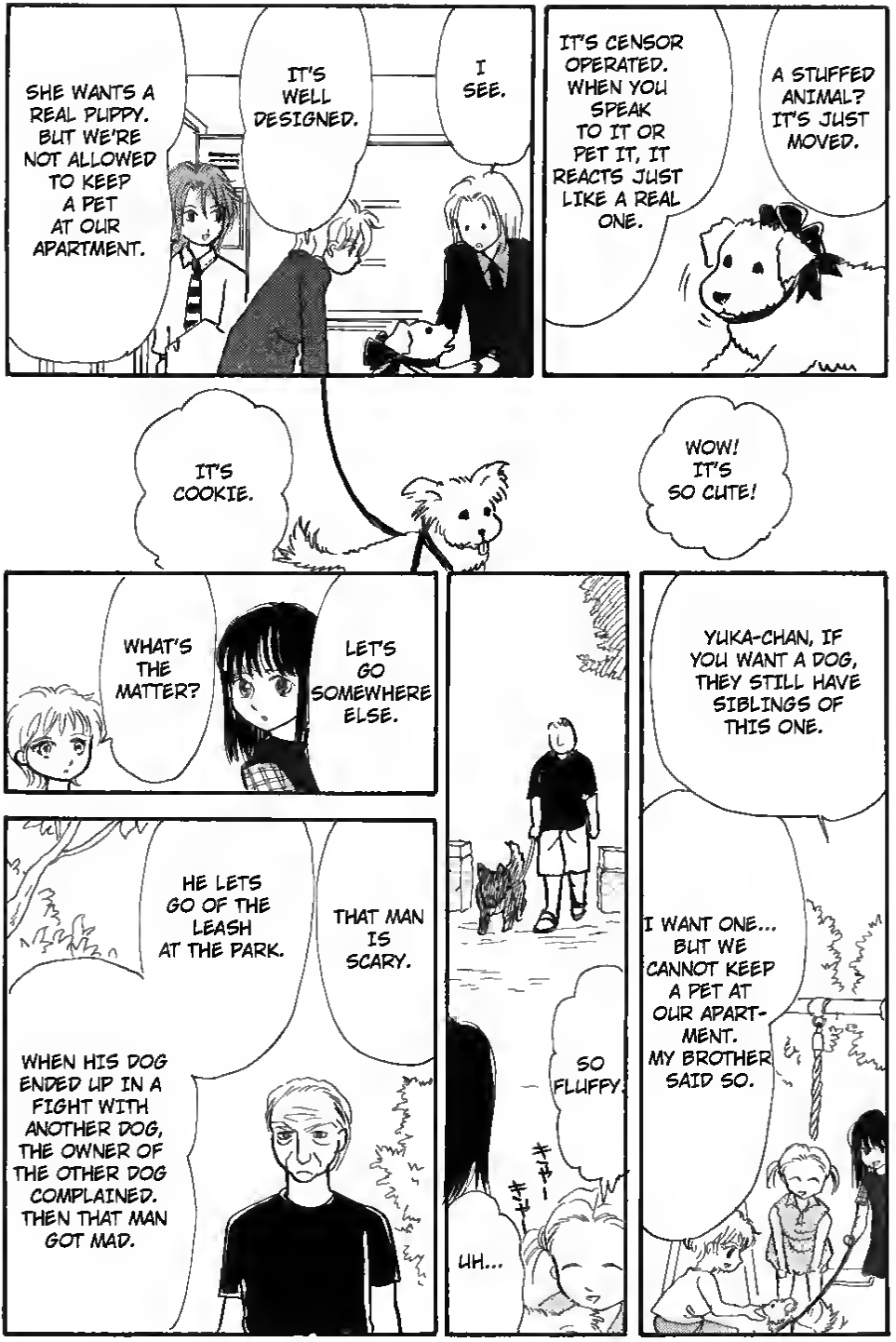
カキーン
IT WAS A FOUL FLY AND WE LOST.


NAOKI KUN.
HE'S NOT HERE. HE USED TO BE HERE AT THIS TIME OF THE DAY.


HE'S GONE NOW.
MAYBE HE'S GIVEN UP.
...I HAVE ONE I DON'T USE. I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO HIM.
NO, THIS IS FOR THE GUY WHO WAS HERE SINGING UNTIL YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE GOT NO GUITAR. SO...
PLAYING THE GUITAR HERE?
MA-NA-GER.
BUT, GOOD LUCK!
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO OPEN THE CLUB, ISN'T IT? LET'S GO, MANAGER.
GOOD LUCK!!

Nagomi Club no.17

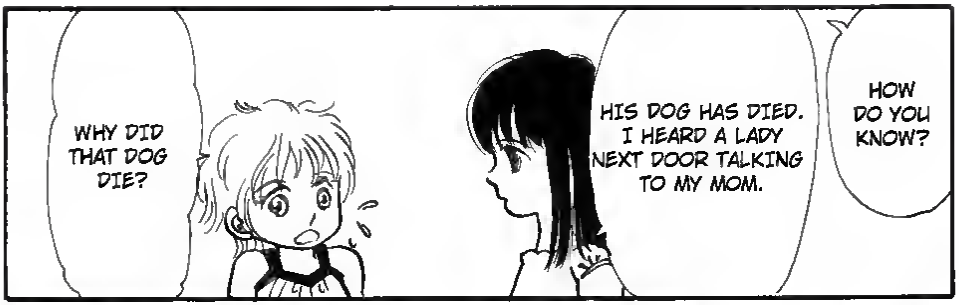
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
(WHINE)
SEE YA!
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK EVERYONE.
SEE YA.
THAT'S MY SISTER'S BD GIFT.
THAT'S MY STUFFED ANIMAL.
A DOG?

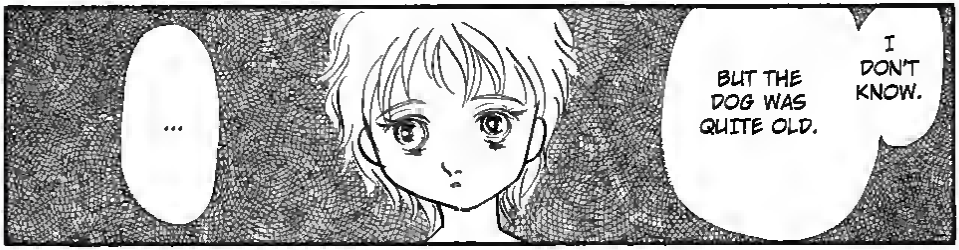

SHE WANTS A REAL PUPPY. BUT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO KEEP A PET AT OUR APARTMENT.
IT'S WELL DESIGNED.
I SEE.
IT'S CENSOR OPERATED. WHEN YOU SPEAK TO IT OR PET IT, IT REACTS JUST LIKE A REAL ONE.
A STUFFED ANIMAL? IT'S JUST MOVED.
IT'S COOKIE.
WOW! IT'S SO CUTE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YUKA-CHAN, IF YOU WANT A DOG, THEY STILL HAVE SIBLINGS OF THIS ONE.
I WANT ONE... BUT WE CANNOT KEEP A PET AT OUR APARTMENT. MY BROTHER SAID SO.
SO FLUFFY.
キャー
UH...
HE LETS GO OF THE LEASH AT THE PARK.
THAT MAN IS SCARY.
WHEN HIS DOG ENDED UP IN A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER DOG, THE OWNER OF THE OTHER DOG COMPLAINED. THEN THAT MAN GOT MAD.

YUKA-CHAN, HEY.
SERISOULY? THAT'S JUST BAD!
AND LOOK, HE NEVER CLEANS AFTER HIS DOG.
EXCUSE ME, SIR, YOU MUST CLEAN AFTER YOUR DOG.
びくっ!
じろっ
STOP IT, YUKA-CHAN.
SIR!
LET'S GO.
BUT...
IT WORKS AS A FERTILIZER.

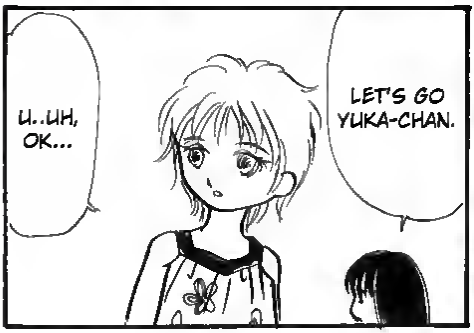
OH, YEAH, YOU KNOW, TODAY, AT THE PARK, I COMPLAINED TO A MAN WHO REFUSED TO CLEAN AFTER HIS DOG.
A HALF OF A HALF.
HOW MUCH CAKE DO YOU WANT?
IT'S SO CUTE! WHAT SHOULD I NAME IT?
??
WOW!! THANK YOU!
I WONDER WHY A PERSON WHO LOVES HIS DOG THAT MUCH CANNOT GET ALONG WITH OTHERS?
HE TAKES HIS DOG TO THE PARK EVERY-DAY. HE SEEMS TO LOVE HIS DOG VERY MUCH.
...BUT THERE ARE MANY DANGEROUS OLD MEN NOWADAYS. SO...
WELL, WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT...
WHAT?
ラッ

? ? ?
WELL... WHAT I THINK IS... THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE ANNOYING.
WELL... THAT'S...
WHY?
THERE'RE MANY ANNOYING THINGS AROUND.
WHAT IS ANNOYING? HE'S ANNOYING? OR HE'S ANNOYED BY GETTING ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
I LEFT HIGH SCHOOL AT FIRST YEAR; SO, PROBABLY, YOU WILL LEARN WHAT IT IS AT SECOND YEAR. JUST WAIT UNTIL THEN, OK?
MANY THINGS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT MAN ANY MORE. HE'S NOT GONNA COME TO THE PARK.
I DON'T KNOW...
YUKA-CHAN, I'M GOING TO THE PARK TODAY AFTER SCHOOL WITH COOKIE. WANNA COME?
OK! LET'S EAT SOME CAKE!
HUH?

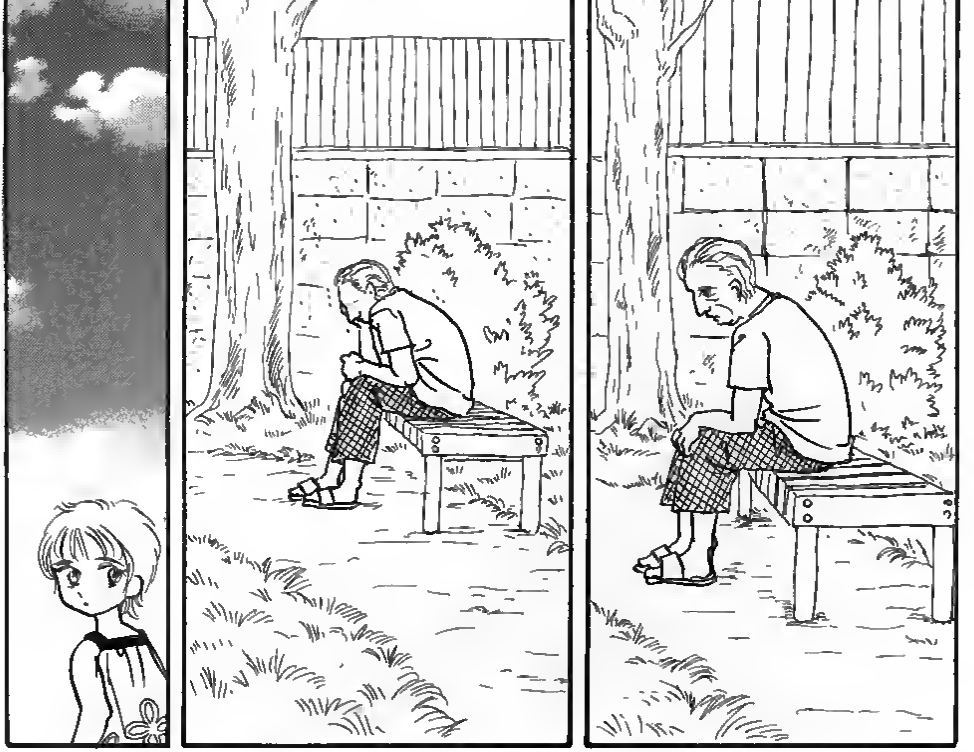

WHY DID THAT DOG DIE?
HIS DOG HAS DIED. I HEARD A LADY NEXT DOOR TALKING TO MY MOM.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?


...
BUT THE DOG WAS QUITE OLD.
I DON'T KNOW.

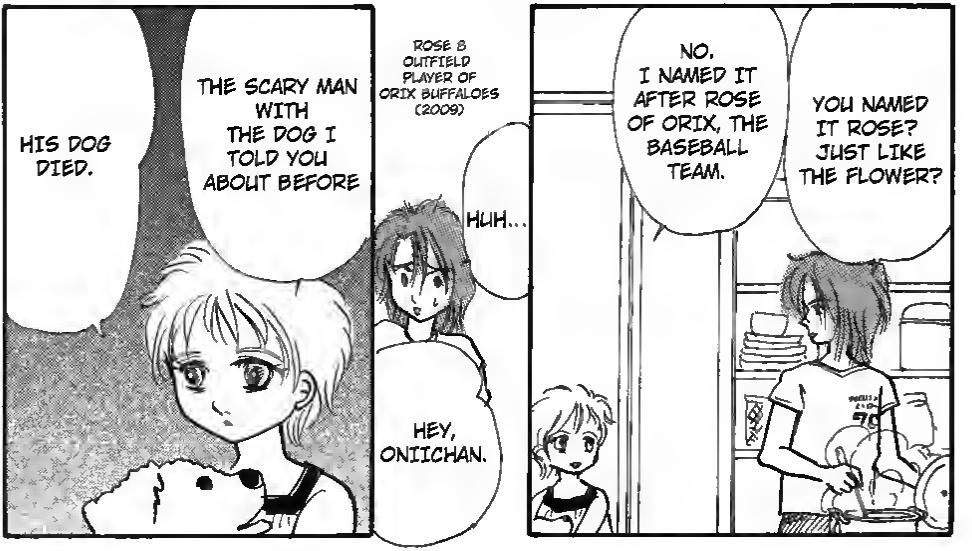
WANNA GO TO ANOTHER PARK?
OH, YEAH, WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO NOW?
HE'S HERE!


U..UH, OK...
LET'S GO YUKA-CHAN.

AHHHH!

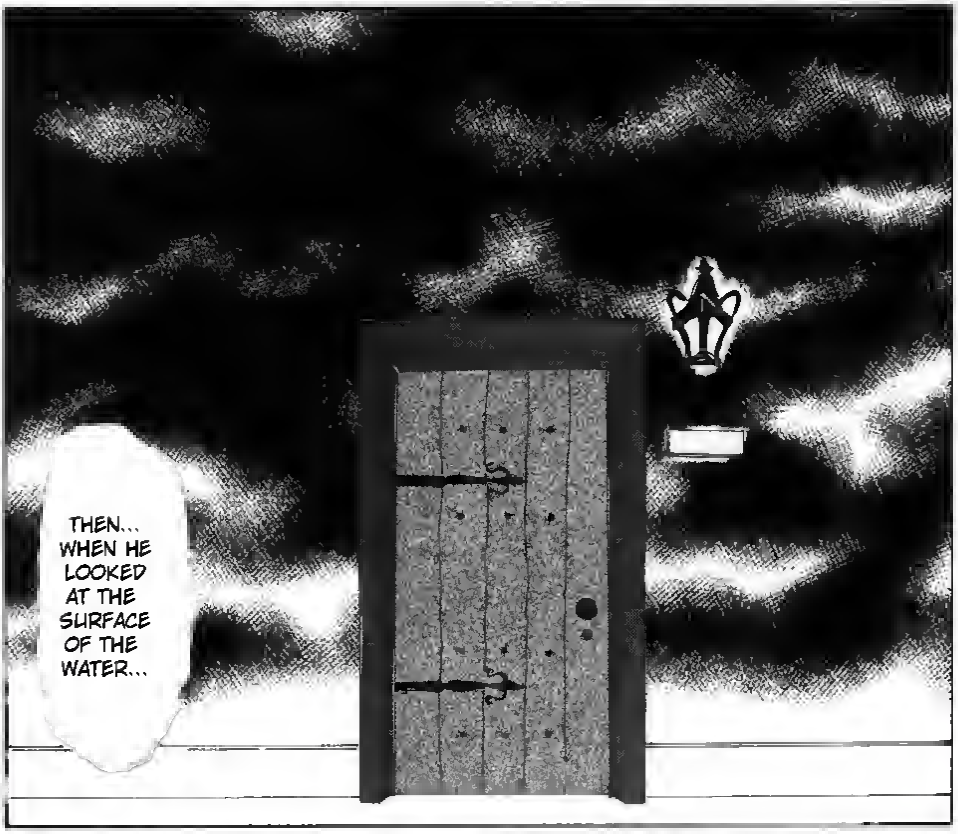


BOWWOW
GOOD GIRL, ROSE. GOOD GIRL.


HIS DOG DIED.
THE SCARY MAN WITH THE DOG I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE
ROSE B OUTFIELD PLAYER OF ORIX BUFFALOES (2009)
HUH...
HEY, ONIICHAN.
NO. I NAMED IT AFTER ROSE OF ORIX, THE BASEBALL TEAM.
YOU NAMED IT ROSE? JUST LIKE THE FLOWER?

IS THAT RIGHT?
HE SEEMED TO BE CRYING...
...I FELT SORRY FOR HIM.
OK.
(WHINE)

Nagomi Club no.18


THEN... WHEN HE LOOKED AT THE SURFACE OF THE WATER...

WHEN MANAGER SAYS THAT, THAT DOES NOT FEEL LIKE IT...
...HUM
THAT'S SCARY.

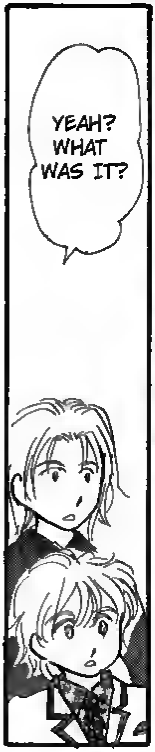
EEEEEK!!
PALE ARMS BEGIN TO APPEAR FROM THE WATER...

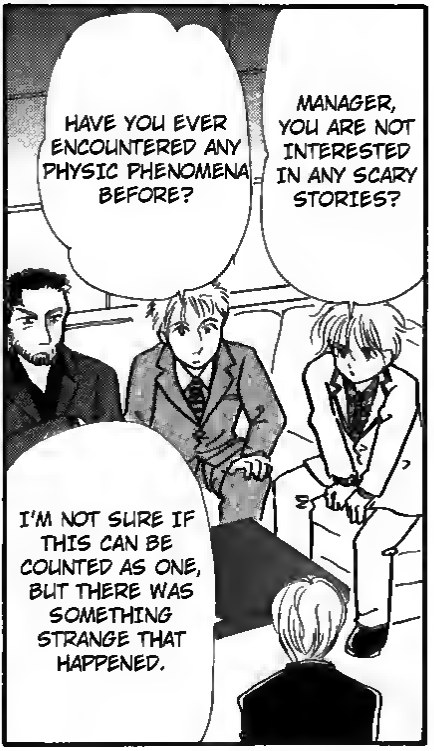
I...
YOU TOTALLY RUINED IT.
THAT WAS THE SCARIEST ONE I HAD.

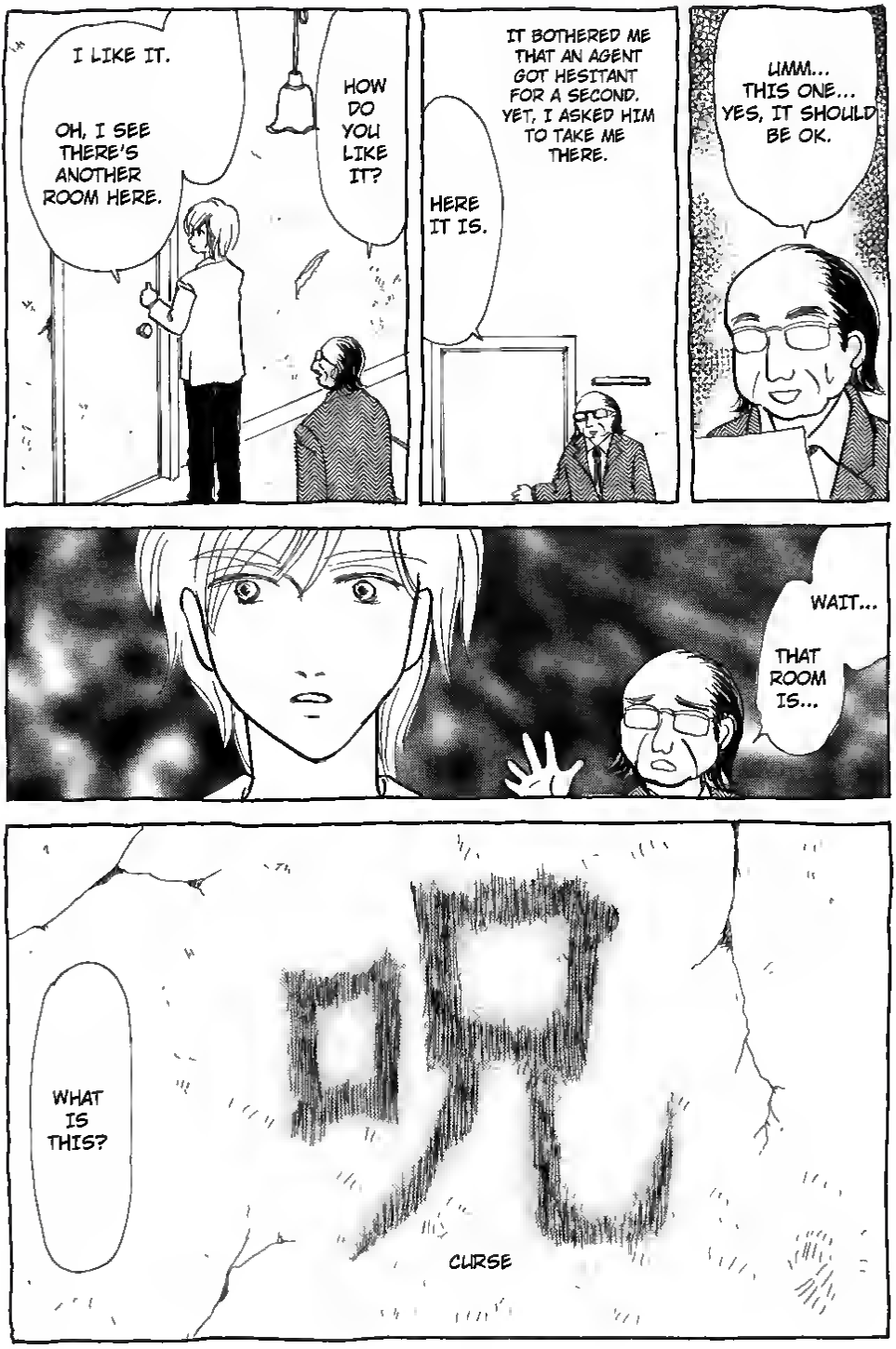
がらーん
... I WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT WE HAD ZERO RESERVATIONS AND BORED EMPLOYEES WERE SHARING GHOST STORIES. THAT REALITY IS SCARY, BUSINESS-WISE.

不動産
WHEN WE DECIDED TO RUN THIS BUSINESS, WE SHOPPED AROUND LOOKING FOR A NICE LOCATION...

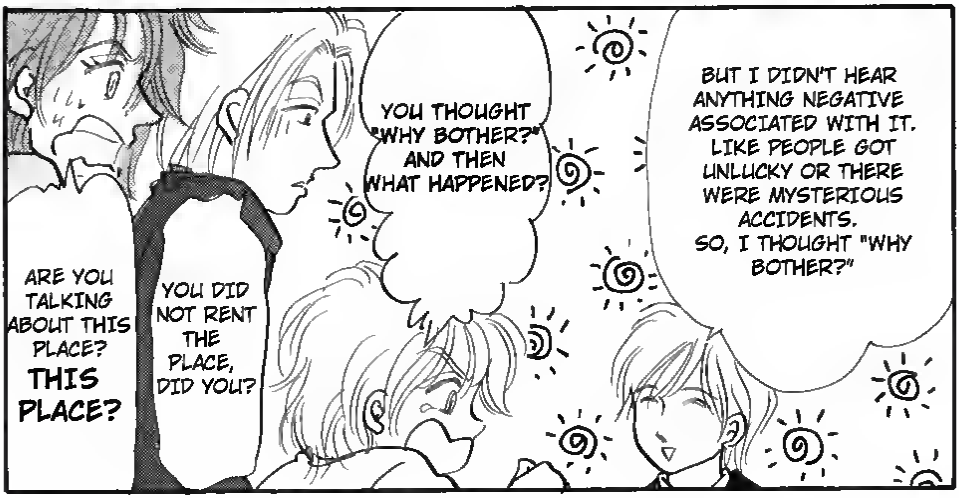
CAN YOU SHOW US THIS ONE?
WE CAME ACROSS A PROPERTY WITH THE MOST IDEAL CONDITIONS IN TERMS OF TRANSPORTATION AND SIZE.


YEAH? WHAT WAS IT?

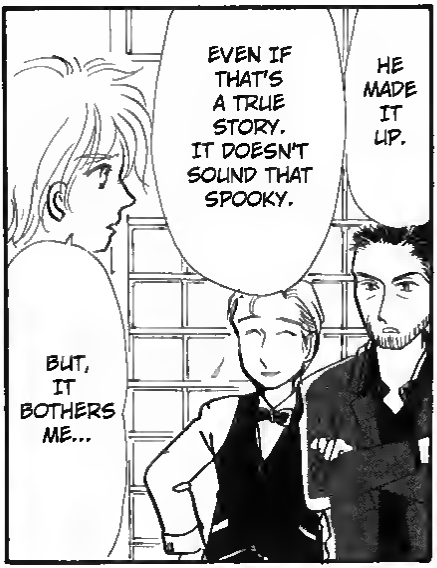

HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED ANY PHYSIC PHENOMENA BEFORE?
MANAGER, YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY SCARY STORIES?
I'M NOT SURE IF THIS CAN BE COUNTED AS ONE, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE THAT HAPPENED.

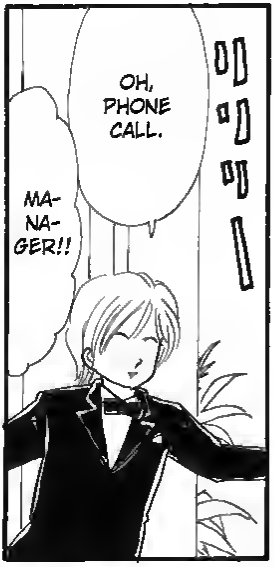

I LIKE IT.
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
OH, I SEE THERE'S ANOTHER ROOM HERE.
IT BOTHERED ME THAT AN AGENT GOT HESITANT FOR A SECOND. YET, I ASKED HIM TO TAKE ME THERE.
HERE IT IS.
UMM... THIS ONE... YES, IT SHOULD BE OK.
WAIT... THAT ROOM IS...
WHAT IS THIS?
CURSE

ACCORDING TO THE AGENT, THE WORD KEPT ON COMING BACK EVEN AFTER PAINTING THE WALL OVER AND OVER.
THE WALL SAID "CURSE."


ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS PLACE? THIS PLACE?
YOU DID NOT RENT THE PLACE, DID YOU?
YOU THOUGHT "WHY BOTHER?" AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING NEGATIVE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. LIKE PEOPLE GOT UNLUCKY OR THERE WERE MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS. SO, I THOUGHT "WHY BOTHER?"

...


BUT, IT BOTHERS ME...
EVEN IF THAT'S A TRUE STORY. IT DOESN'T SOUND THAT SPOOKY.
HE MADE IT UP.


MA-NA-GER!!
OH, PHONE CALL.
BBBB

ガシャン
SMASH
EEEEEEEEEEEEK!!
WHAT? WHAT HAPP-ENED?
I'M NOT SCARED. I'M NOT SCARED!!
YOU ALL TOO SCARED!
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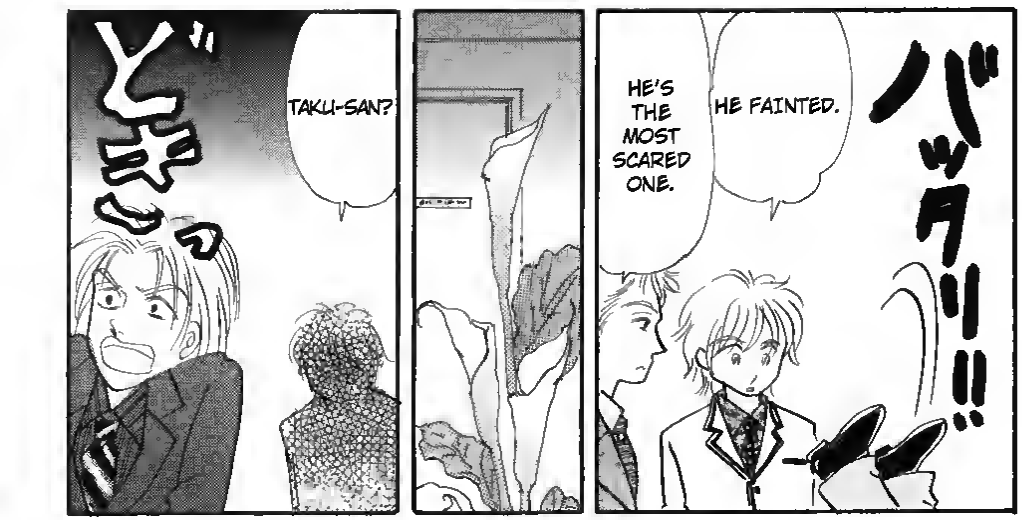
CALM DOWN! JUST A PICTURE FRAME FELL.


バックリ!!
HE FAINTED.
HE'S THE MOST SCARED ONE.
TAKU-SAN?
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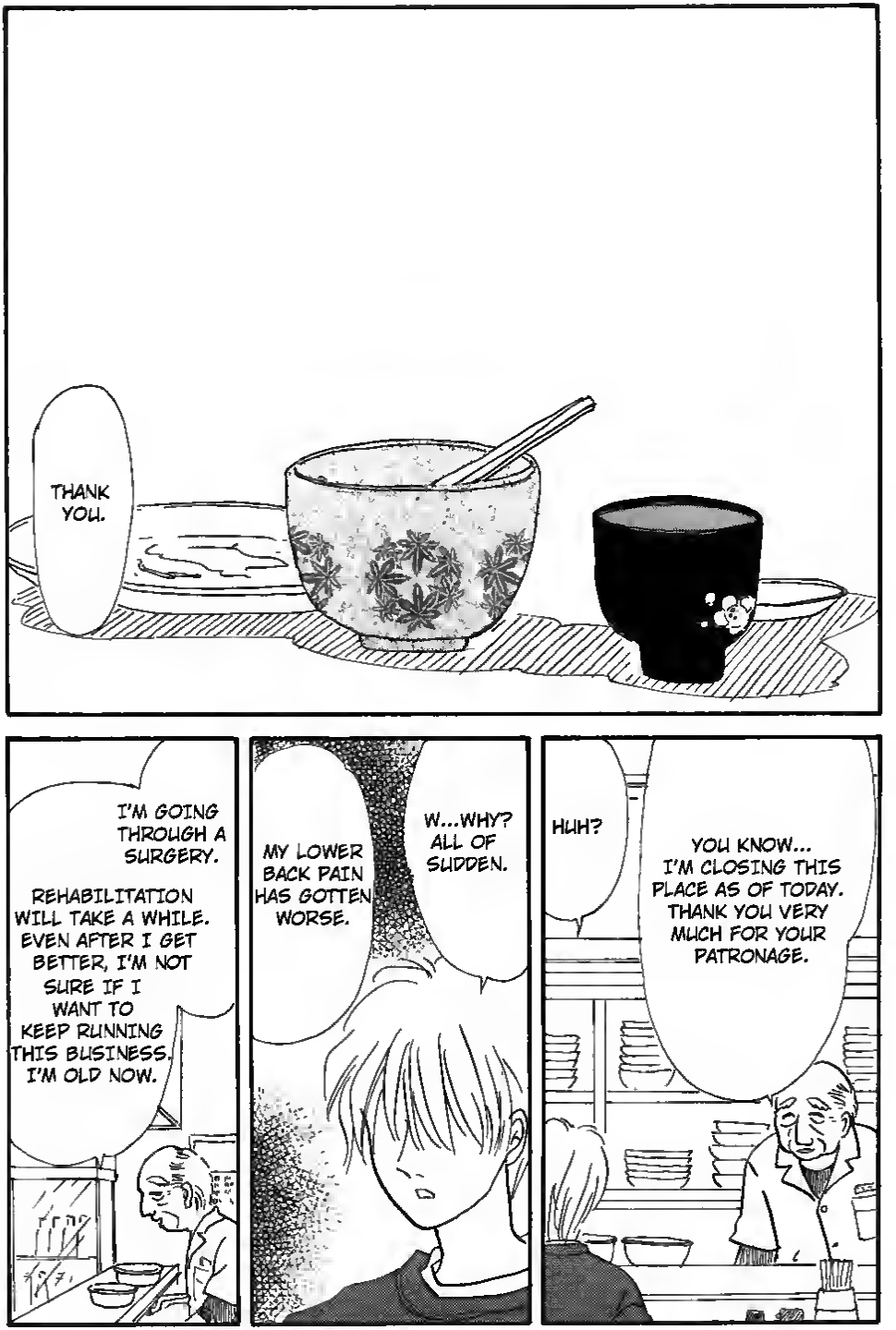
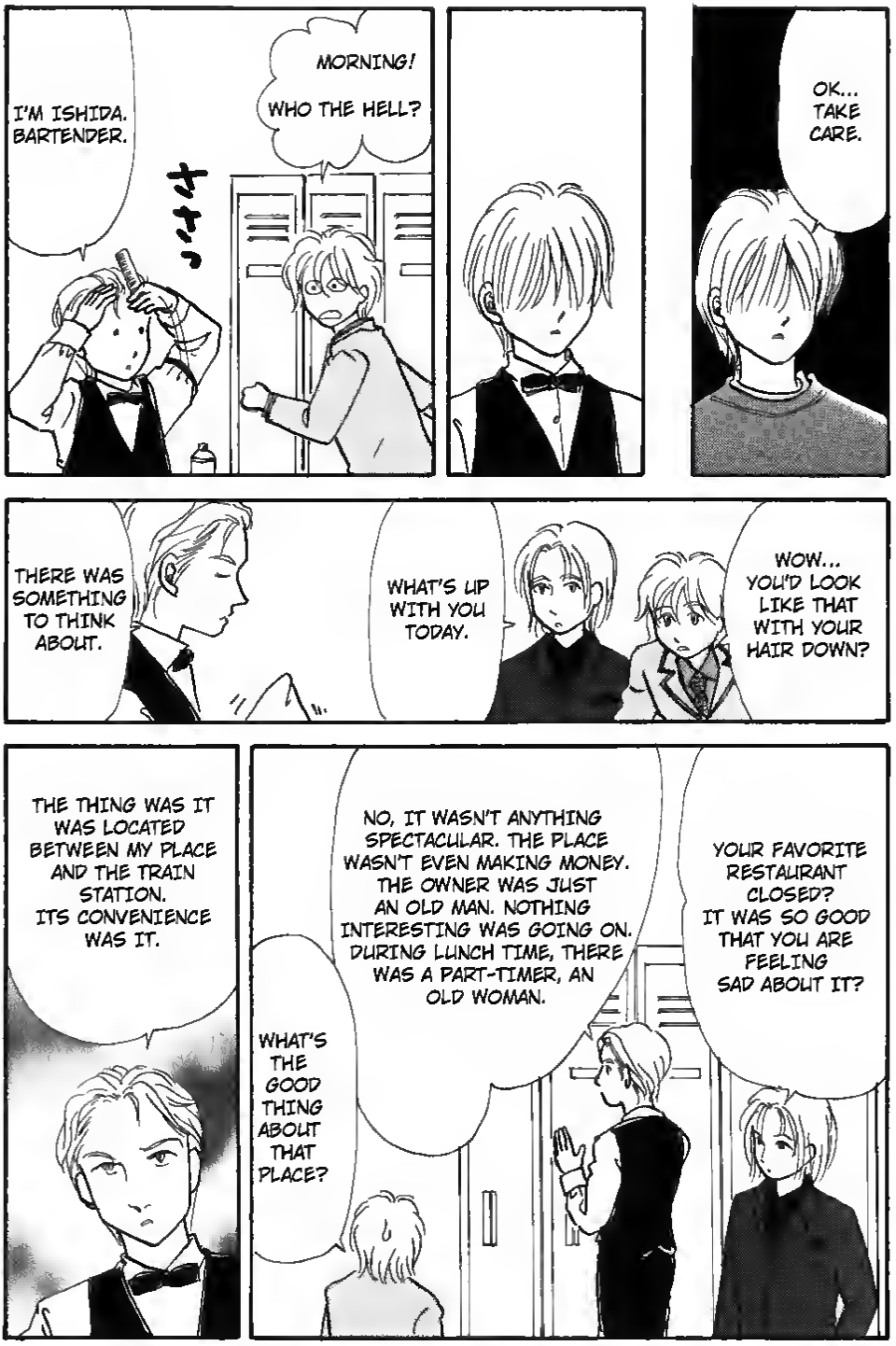
THESE!! THESE DOTS.
DEFINITELY SUSPICIOUS!
...
IT'S NOT THIS PLACE. SO, DON'T WORRY.
YOU HEARD WHAT MANAGER SAID, DIDN'T YA?
ABOUT THE WORD ON THE WALL..
WHAT THE... DO NOT SCARE ME!
WHAT IF THE LOCKERS ARE HIDING THE WALL?
WHAT ABOUT BEHIND THE LOCKERS?
AND THERE IS NO WALL THAT SAYS "CURSE" AT THIS PLACE.
THINK-ING TOO MUCH.

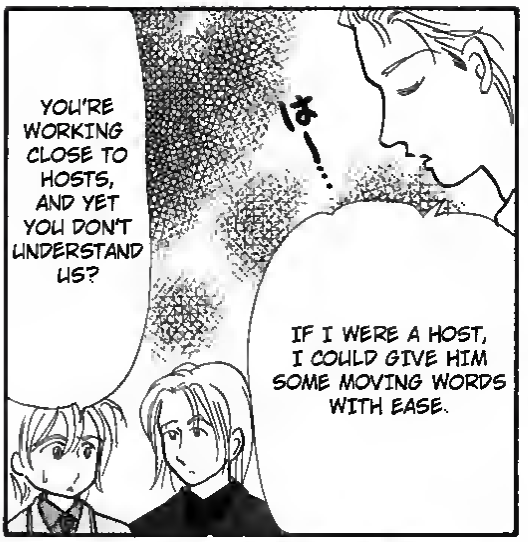
YEAH, I'M SCARED!! IF THE WORD APPEARS ON THE WALL, THAT IS SCARY.
BUT KEEPING USING THE LOCKER WONDERING ABOUT THE WALL IS MORE SCARY TO ME!!
DO... DO YOU WANNA MAKE SURE?
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
TORU-SAN, YOU SCARED?
HERE WE GO!
ガタ
ガタ
OK, GRAB THE OTHER END.
WHAT?
THIS IS...

THIS IS... MISSPELLED.
THIS IS A PRANK USING PAINT THAT CANNOT BE PAINTED OVER IT.
IS THIS SCARY OR WHAT?
WELL...
CURSE
WHY ME...
TORU. PUT ALL BACK IN PLACE.
IT WAS YOUR IDEA.
WHY ME?
SEE YA TOMO-RROW.

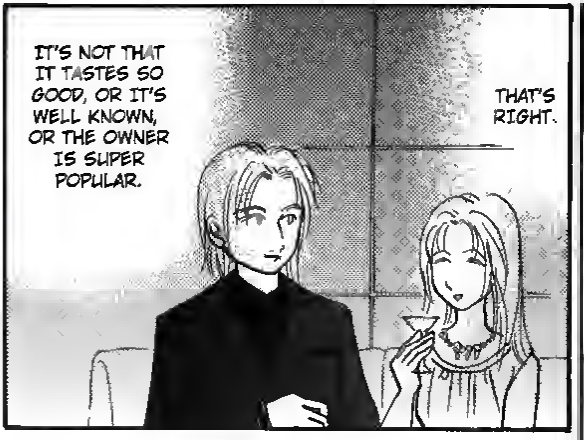
Nagami Club no.19


THANK YOU.
I'M GOING THROUGH A SURGERY.
REHABILITATION WILL TAKE A WHILE. EVEN AFTER I GET BETTER, I'M NOT SURE IF I WANT TO KEEP RUNNING THIS BUSINESS. I'M OLD NOW.
MY LOWER BACK PAIN HAS GOTTEN WORSE.
W...WHY? ALL OF SUDDEN.
HUH?
YOU KNOW... I'M CLOSING THIS PLACE AS OF TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.


I'M ISHIDA. BARTENDER.
MORNING!
WHO THE HELL?
OK... TAKE CARE.
THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY.
WOW... YOU'D LOOK LIKE THAT WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN?
THE THING WAS IT WAS LOCATED BETWEEN MY PLACE AND THE TRAIN STATION. ITS CONVENIENCE WAS IT.
WHAT'S THE GOOD THING ABOUT THAT PLACE?
NO, IT WASN'T ANYTHING SPECTACULAR. THE PLACE WASN'T EVEN MAKING MONEY. THE OWNER WAS JUST AN OLD MAN. NOTHING INTERESTING WAS GOING ON. DURING LUNCH TIME, THERE WAS A PART-TIMER, AN OLD WOMAN.
YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT CLOSED? IT WAS SO GOOD THAT YOU ARE FEELING SAD ABOUT IT?

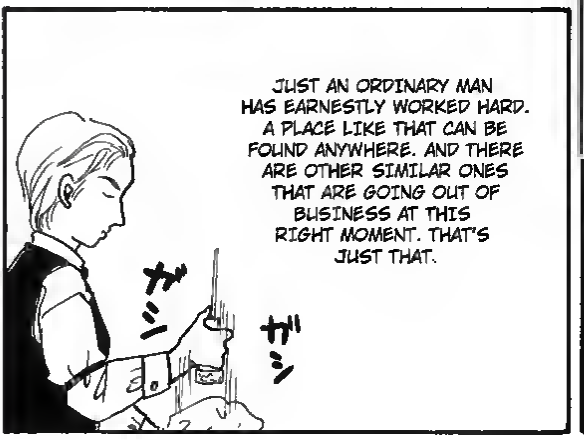

YOU'RE WORKING CLOSE TO HOSTS, AND YET YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND US?
は…
IF I WERE A HOST, I COULD GIVE HIM SOME MOVING WORDS WITH EASE.

NOT ABOUT THE RESTAURANT. THE FACT THAT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING NICE TO HIM ABOUT THE CLOSING OF THE PLACE.
IF YOU'RE NOT PICKY ABOUT TASTE, THERE'RE MANY OTHER THAT ARE CONVENIENT.


IT'S NOT THAT IT TASTES SO GOOD, OR IT'S WELL KNOWN, OR THE OWNER IS SUPER POPULAR.
THAT'S RIGHT.

HERE IS YOUR GIMLET.

PEOPLE, WE ARE ABOUT TO CLOSE.
SURE!


JUST AN ORDINARY MAN HAS EARNESTLY WORKED HARD. A PLACE LIKE THAT CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE. AND THERE ARE OTHER SIMILAR ONES THAT ARE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS AT THIS RIGHT MOMENT. THAT'S JUST THAT.
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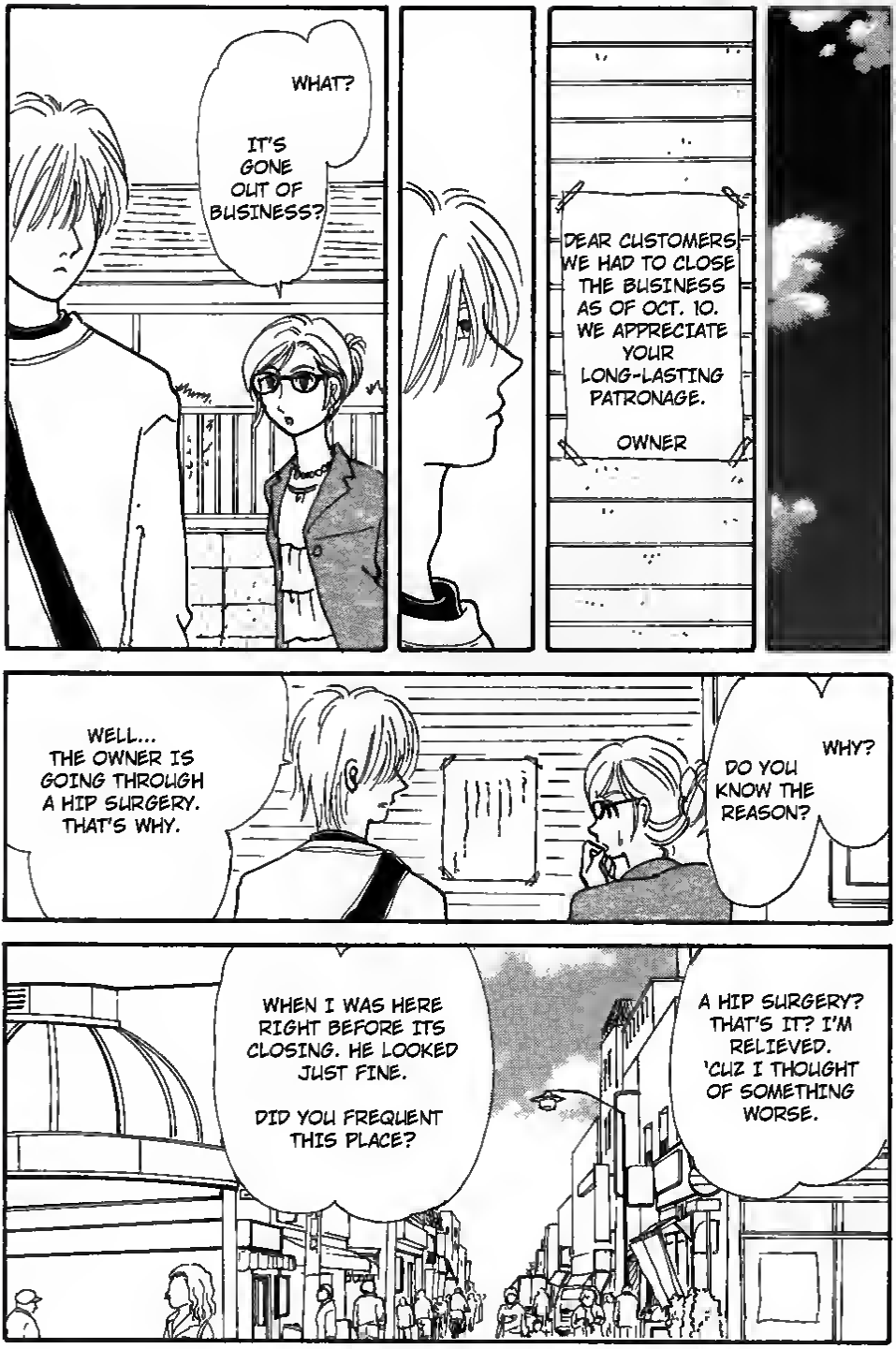
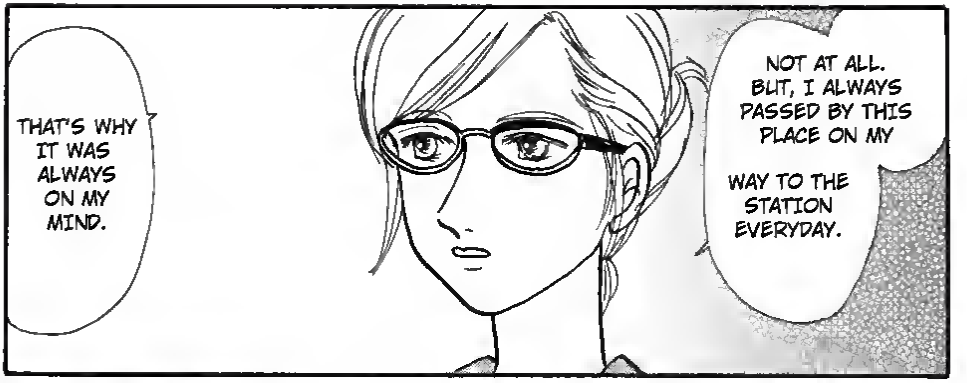
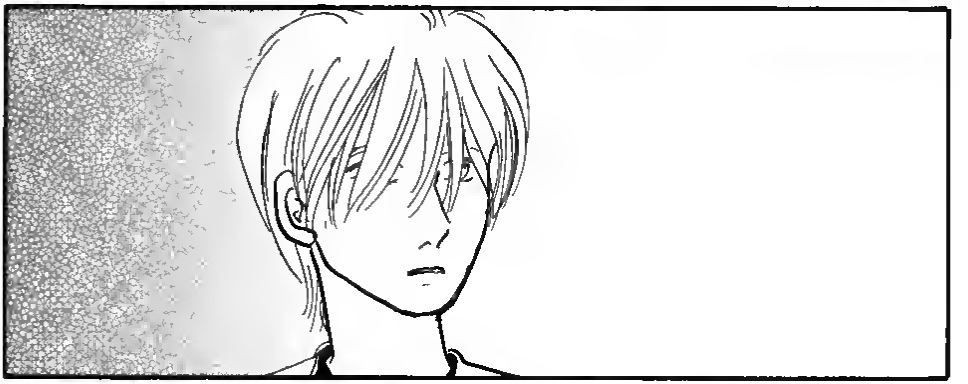

WHAT?
IT'S GONE OUT OF BUSINESS?
DEAR CUSTOMERS, WE HAD TO CLOSE THE BUSINESS AS OF OCT. 10. WE APPRECIATE YOUR LONG-LASTING PATRONAGE.
OWNER
WELL... THE OWNER IS GOING THROUGH A HIP SURGERY. THAT'S WHY.
WHY?
DO YOU KNOW THE REASON?
WHEN I WAS HERE RIGHT BEFORE ITS CLOSING. HE LOOKED JUST FINE.
DID YOU FREQUENT THIS PLACE?
A HIP SURGERY? THAT'S IT? I'M RELIEVED. 'CUZ I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING WORSE.


THAT'S WHY IT WAS ALWAYS ON MY MIND.
NOT AT ALL. BUT, I ALWAYS PASSED BY THIS PLACE ON MY WAY TO THE STATION EVERYDAY.



HE WAS OLD. SO, HE JUST WANTED TO RETIRE, I GUESS.

WELL, DON'T WORRY. HE WASN'T EAGER TO MAKE HIS BUSINESS PROSPEROUS.
I WONDER WHY... I'M FEELING SAD.
I SHOULD HAVE COME HERE MORE OFTEN...
I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE

...
THIS MAKES ME FEEL SAD.
BUT... YOU ARE RIGHT...
OTHER THAN ME, THERE WERE MORE CUSTOMERS.
WELL, OF COURSE. HE HAD ENOUGH CUSTOMERS TO STAY AFLOAT.
OH, YEAH.
HAAAA? THEY CLOSED THE BUSINESS.

HE IS, TOO.
...
!!
GOOD MORNING.
...SOMEONE CARES ABOUT THAT PLACE, MORE THAN IMAGINED.
EVEN AN EATERY THAT LOOKS BORING AND ORDINARY...
BECAUSE LATELY WE HAVE STARTED TO HAVE MORE COCKTAIL ORDERS, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU BOUGHT AN ICE CRUSHER?
VIOLA! HOW ABOUT THIS?
ISHIMO-TO-KUN!
LOOK! LOOK! MORE AND MORE ICE IS BEING CRUSHED.
YOU ALWAYS USED YOUR HANDS TO CRUSH ICE.
ガガガ
どーん

YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT THE PLACE WAS BORING AND ORDINARY, BUT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GREAT PLACE.
AND ISHI-MOTO-KUN
HAND-CRUSHED ICE HAS ITS OWN BENEFIT. BUT IT'LL COME HANDY, WHEN I'M PRESSED WITH TIME.
WOW!!
WHAT?
OK, EVERYONE, TIME TO OPEN THE CLUB!

Nagomi Club no.20

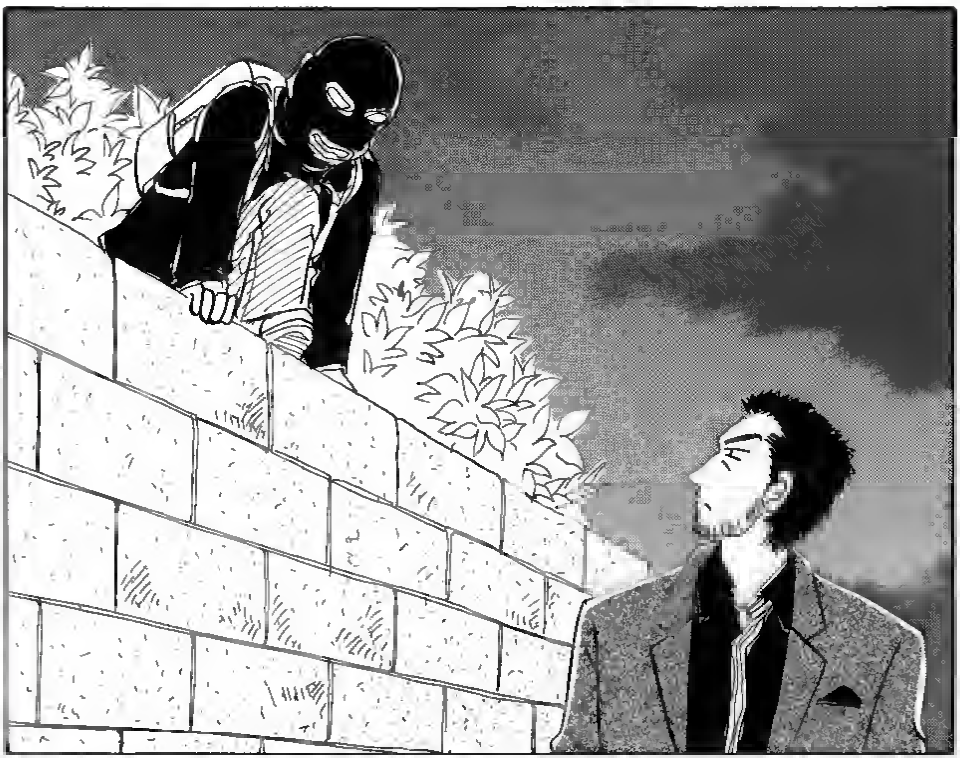
HEY.
GOOD MORNING
EXCEPT THE FACT THAT MY FACE IS HEADING RIGHT, I'M JUST FINE.
ARE YOU OK?
BUT, IN THIS CONDITION, YOU CANNOT WORK.
I SLEPT WRONG.
SINCE I WOKE UP THIS MORNING, MY HEAD HAS BEEN FACING RIGHT.
UMMM. DID I DO ANYTHING TO OFFEND YOU?
NERVOUSLY
NO.

I'LL GIVE YOU A PAID VACATION, SO GO HOME AND REST.
OUCH!!
I'M ALRIGHT
I UNDERSTAND HIS PREDICAMENT. BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE IS GRATEFUL LIKE THAT, DOES HE?
THANKS.
I KNOW THIS GOOD ACUPUNCTURIST. THEY'RE OPEN UNTIL 8PM. GIVE IT A TRY.
I DON'T WANNA TELL HIM THAT. THEN HE'D GET MORE WORRIED.
AHHH. HE LOOKS CONCERNED.
I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU.
OUCH... IT'S GETTING WORSE.

CLOSED FOR TRAINING
GOTTA GET TO THE ACUPUNC-TURIST.
だっ
MOM!!
THERE'S A WEIRD MAN WHO KEEPS STARING AT ME!!!!
ばっ
I SEE NEMEROUS SPRITIS ON YOUR SHOULDER.
NOT BECAUSE OF THE SPIRITS! THEY ARE INVISIBLE!
NO, I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU, BECUASE I WANT FORTUNE-TELLING.
I CAN TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT YOU STARTING FROM 3,000 YEN
占
ガーン
OH, NO...
OUCH!!

I JUST NEED HELP FROM AN ACUPUNC-TURIST OR ORTHO-PEDIST!!
THE SPIRITS ARE MAKING YOU USE SUCH ABUSIVE LANGUAGE. BUT YOUR SOUL IS SEEKING HELP. YOUR EYES ARE TELLING ME THAT.
NO NEED FOR THAT!!
EXOSIM STARTS FROM 20,000 YEN.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT WEIRDO?
HE'S STARING AT US, EWWW!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

WANNA GET HOME RIGHT AWAY.
I JUST DON'T WANNA ANY MORE EYE CONTACT WITH ANYONE



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I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!!
AUUUGHHHH!!
HUH?

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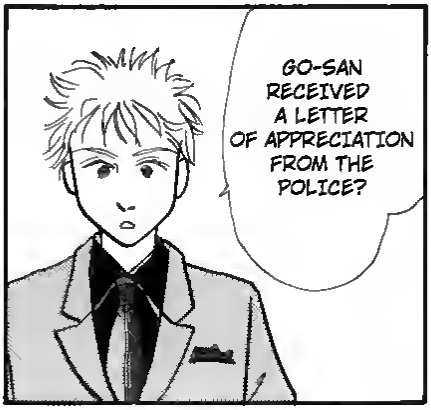
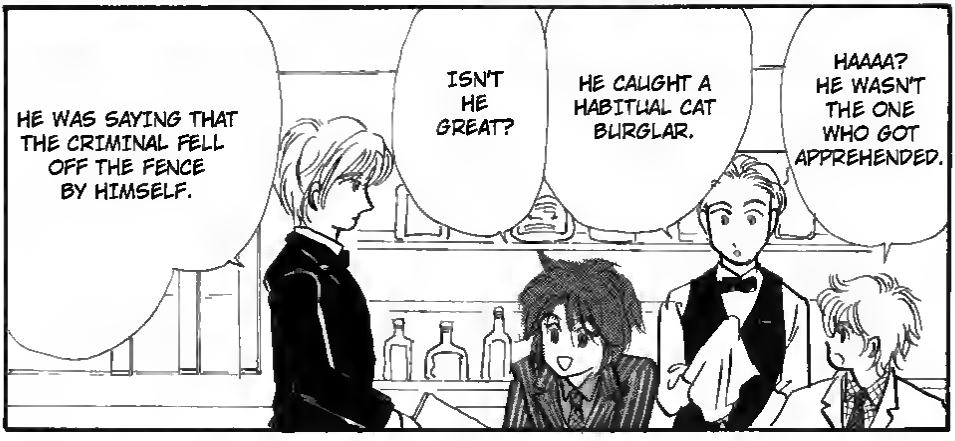
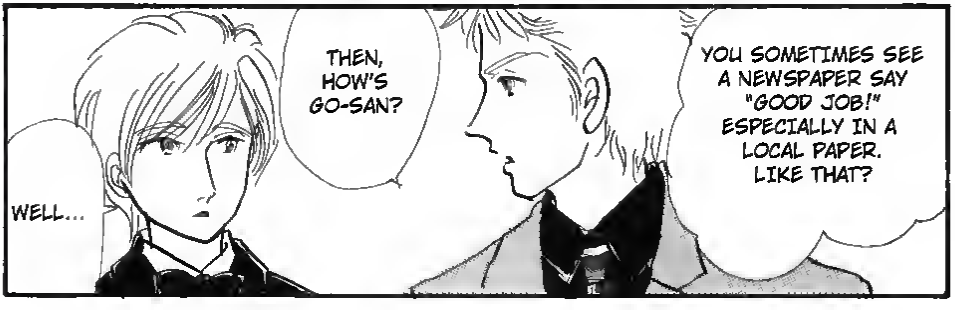
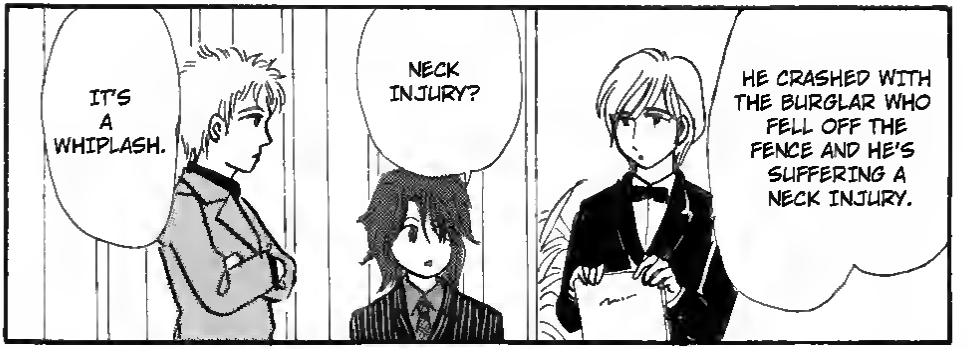
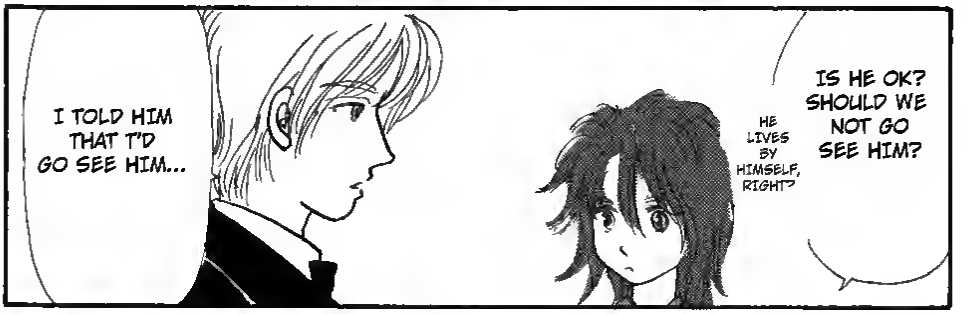

GO-SAN RECEIVED A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE POLICE?


HE WAS SAYING THAT THE CRIMINAL FELL OFF THE FENCE BY HIMSELF.
ISN'T HE GREAT?
HE CAUGHT A HABITUAL CAT BURGLAR.
HAAAA? HE WASN'T THE ONE WHO GOT APPREHENDED.


WELL...
THEN, HOW'S GO-SAN?
YOU SOMETIMES SEE A NEWSPAPER SAY "GOOD JOB!" ESPECIALLY IN A LOCAL PAPER. LIKE THAT?

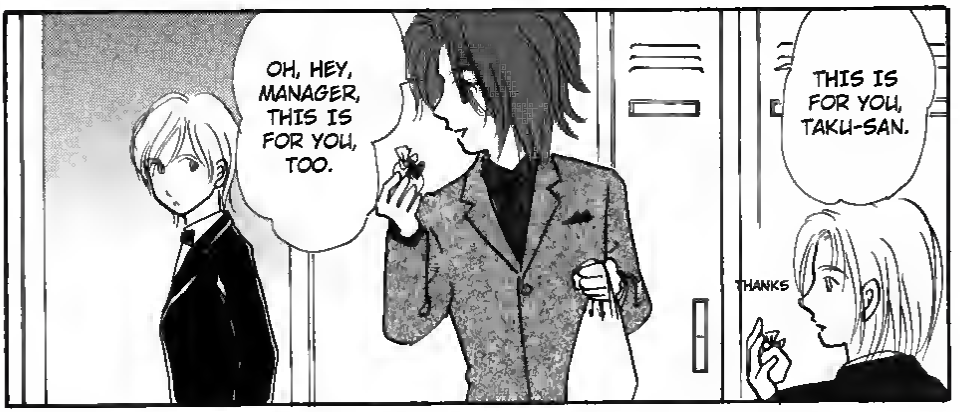

IT'S A WHIPLASH.
NECK INJURY?
HE CRASHED WITH THE BURGLAR WHO FELL OFF THE FENCE AND HE'S SUFFERING A NECK INJURY.


I TOLD HIM THAT T'D GO SEE HIM...
HE LIVES BY HIMSELF, RIGHT?
IS HE OK? SHOULD WE NOT GO SEE HIM?

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS, JUST BECAUSE I SLEPT WRONG?
IS IT A SPIRIT?
IT MAY BE EASIER TO JUST BLAME THE SPIRIT.

HE TOLD ME TO LEAVE HIM ALONE. BECAUSE HE'S SCARE OF MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH ANYONE.
HUH?
?
?

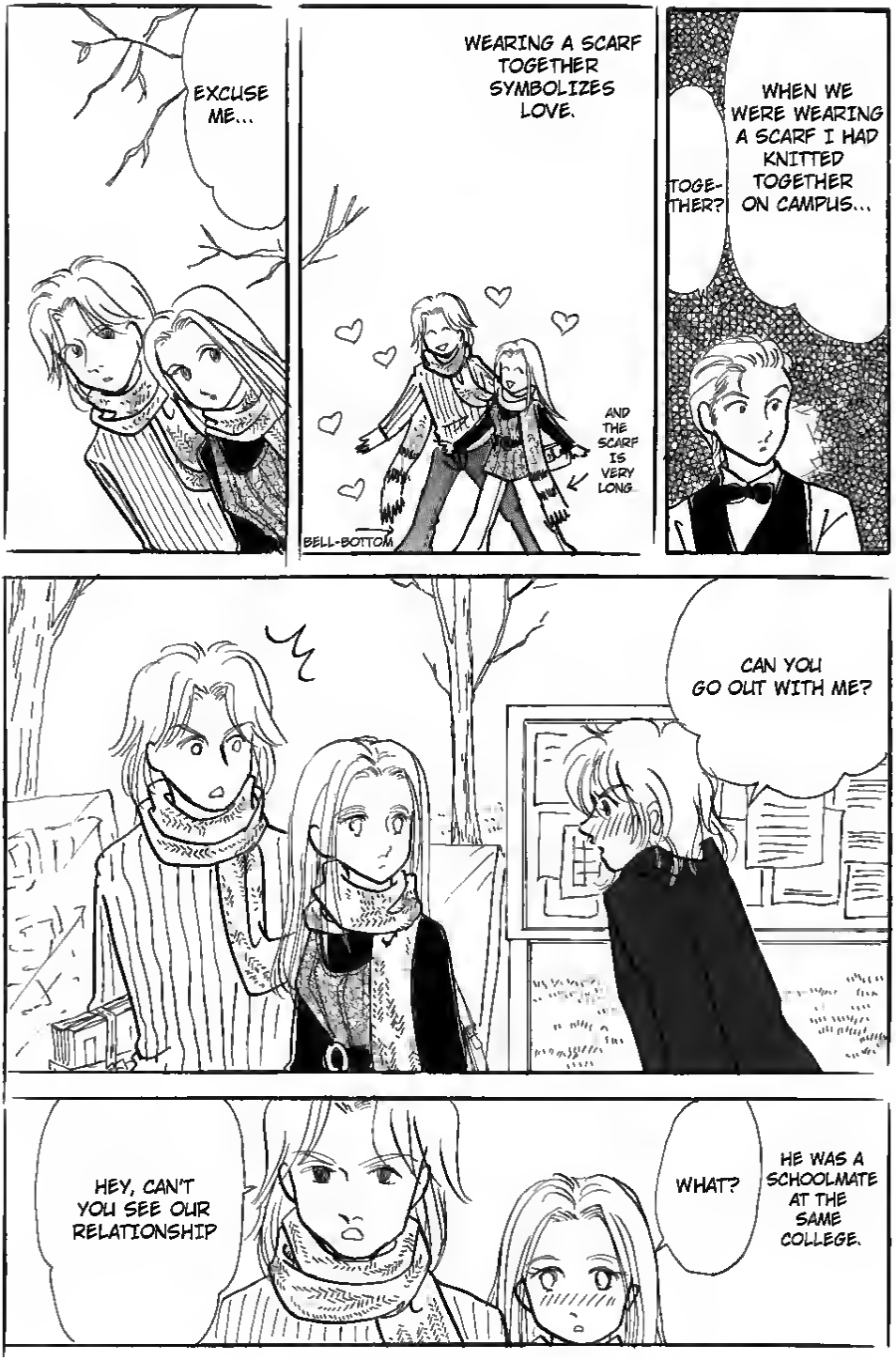
Nagomi Club no.21

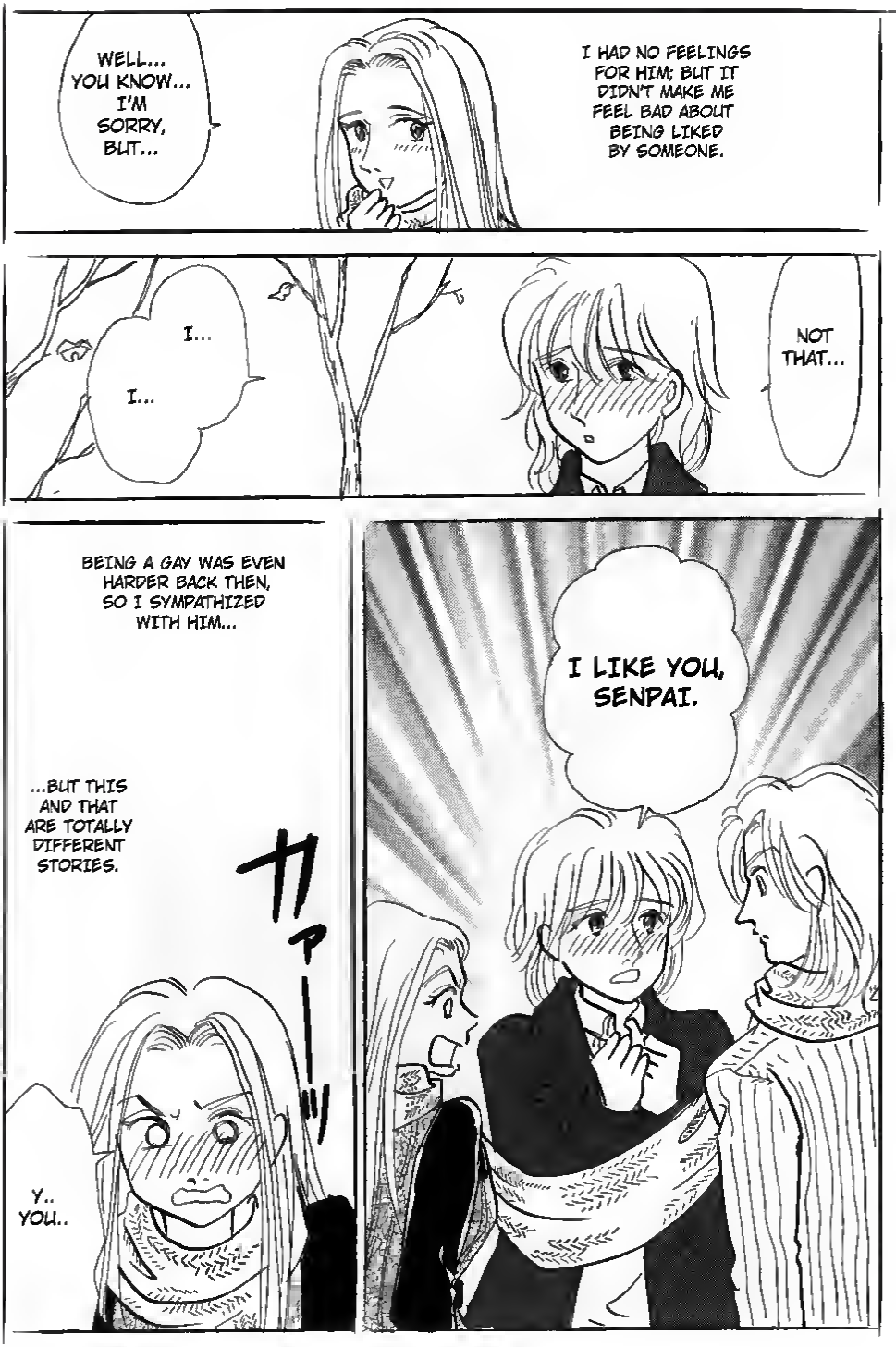

OH, HEY, MANAGER, THIS IS FOR YOU, TOO.
THIS IS FOR YOU, TAKU-SAN.
THANKS

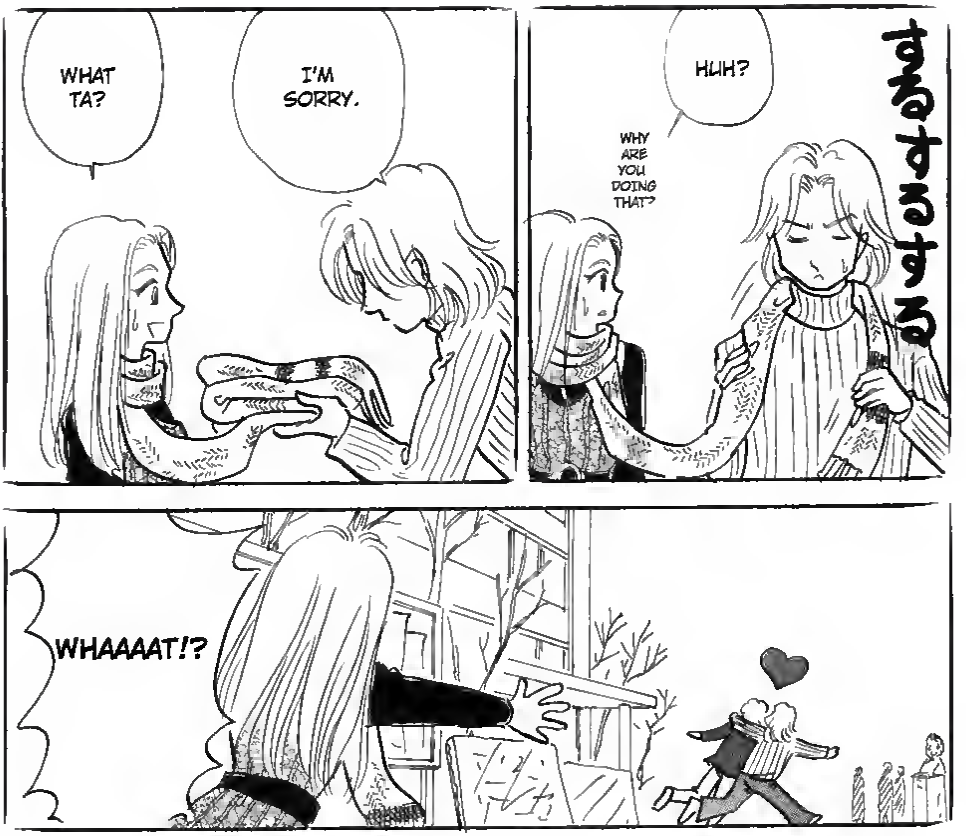
IT'S A THANK YOU GIFT FOR BECOMING A SANTA CLAUSE.
IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE FROM MY SISTER, YUKA.
I WONDER WHAT THIS IS?

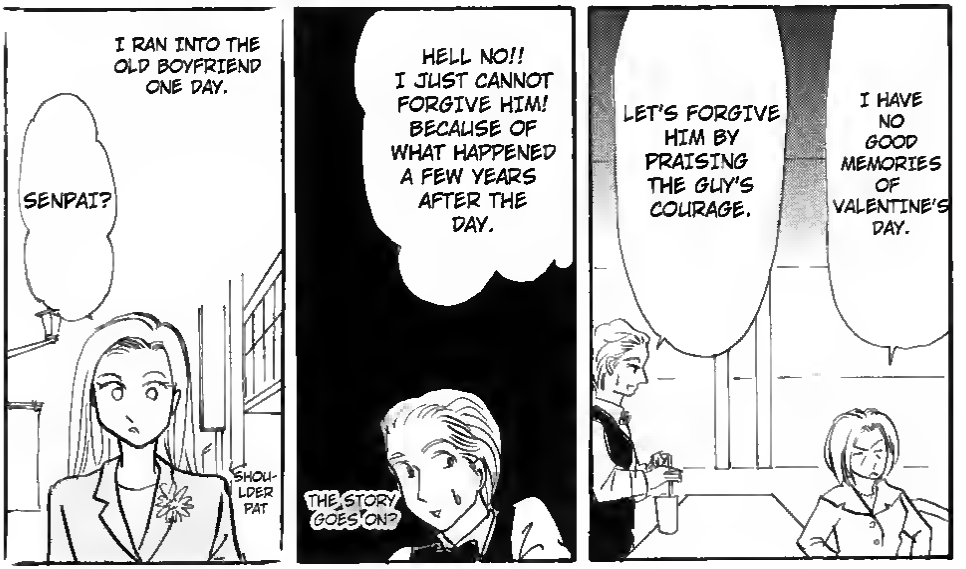
YES, IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY TODAY.
MANAGER EVEN FORGETS VALENTINE'S DAY...
...THAT EXPLAINS THIS DEAD BUSINESS.
NO, THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
がら〜ん EMPTY
REALLY?
JUST TO PROVE THE POINT, LOOK AT THIS! WE HAVE LOTS OF RESERVATIONS TOMORROW!
NATURALLY, VALENTINE'S DAY IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST DAYS FOR A HOST CLUB...
...OUR MEMBERS SAY "I'M A BIT HESITANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT OF VALENTINE'S DAT AT A HOST CLUB..."; THEY HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHY THEY WANT TO AVOID COMING HERE.

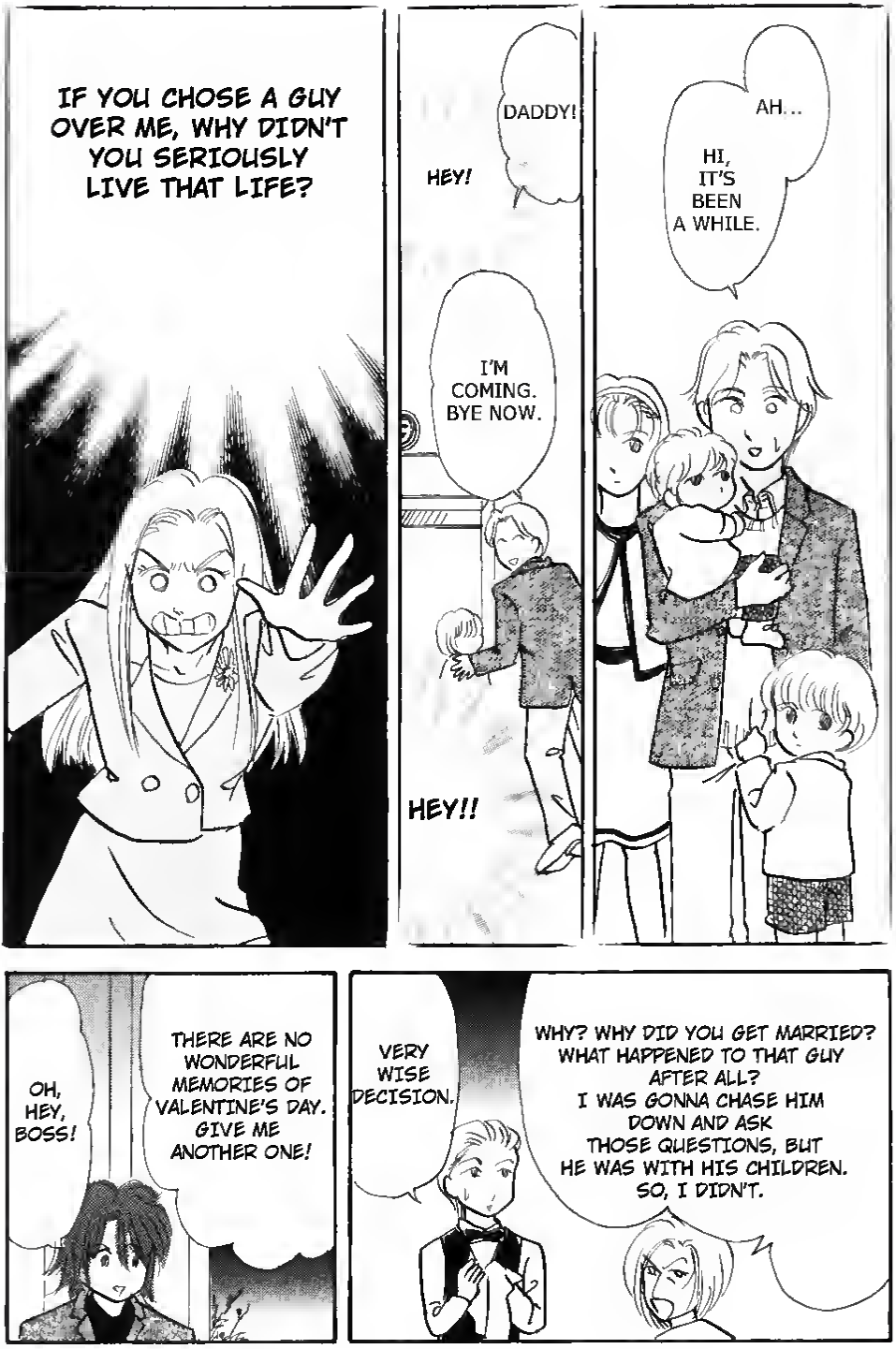
ISHIMOTO-KUN! GIVE BOSS SOMETHING TO DRINK.
I'D RATHER FEEL HAPPY IF THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR ME TO SIT WHEN I CAME BY.
AS YOU CAN SEE WE ARE QUITE EMPTY TONIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU AS AN OWNER SPEND YOUR TIME HERE LEISURELY TONIGHT?
OK, FINE, LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.
VALENTINE'S DAY...
I EVEN GAVE HIM A SWEATER I HAD KNITTED.
HE WAS VERY PLEASED.
THANKS A LOT!!
WHEN I PREPARED SOMETHING HANDMADE FOR THE FIRST IME IN MY LIFE WAS FOR MY BOYFRIEND I HAD BEGUN DATING RIGHT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS TWO YEARS SENIOR AT THE SAME COLLEGE.
GUYS BACK THEN ALL WORE LONG HAIR AS IF THEY WERE ALL CURSED.
IN THE 70'S
VALEN-TINE'S DAY IS...
GOT SOME NICE STORY?


EXCUSE ME...
WEARING A SCARF TOGETHER SYMBOLIZES LOVE.
AND THE SCARF IS VERY LONG
BELL-BOTTOM
TOGE-THER?
WHEN WE WERE WEARING A SCARF I HAD KNITTED TOGETHER ON CAMPUS...
CAN YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
HEY, CAN'T YOU SEE OUR RELATIONSHIP
WHAT?
HE WAS A SCHOOLMATE AT THE SAME COLLEGE.

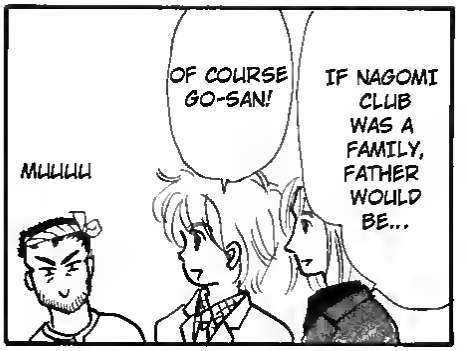

WELL... YOU KNOW... I'M SORRY, BUT...
I HAD NO FEELINGS FOR HIM; BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE ME FEEL BAD ABOUT BEING LIKED BY SOMEONE.
I...
I...
NOT THAT...
BEING A GAY WAS EVEN HARDER BACK THEN, SO I SYMPATHIZED WITH HIM...
...BUT THIS AND THAT ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT STORIES.
I LIKE YOU, SENPAI.
Y.. YOU..

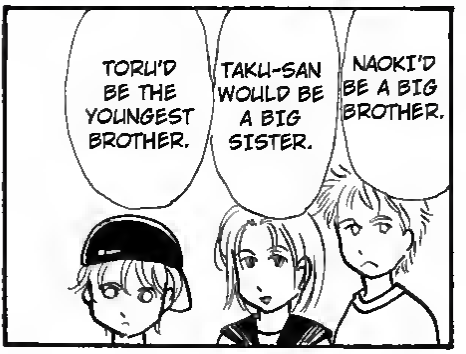

WHAT TA?
I'M SORRY.
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?
するするする
WHAAAAT!?

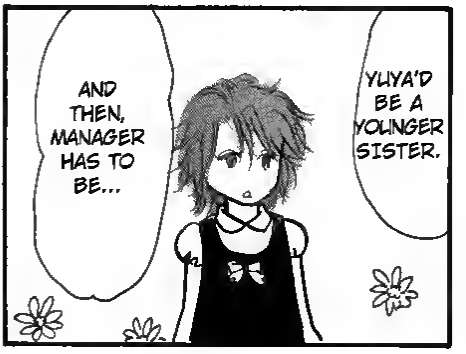

I RAN INTO THE OLD BOYFRIEND ONE DAY.
SENPAI?
SHOULDER PAT
HELL NO!! I JUST CANNOT FORGIVE HIM! BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE DAY.
THE STORY GOES ON?
LET'S FORGIVE HIM BY PRAISING THE GUY'S COURAGE.
I HAVE NO GOOD MEMORIES OF VALENTINE'S DAY.

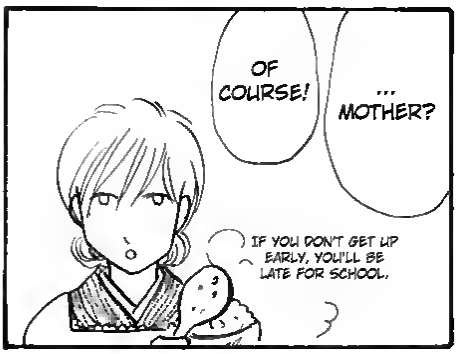

IF YOU CHOSE A GUY OVER ME, WHY DIDN'T YOU SERIOUSLY LIVE THAT LIFE?
HEY!
DADDY!
I'M COMING. BYE NOW.
HEY!!
AH...
HI, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
OH, HEY, BOSS!
THERE ARE NO WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF VALENTINE'S DAY. GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE!
VERY WISE DECISION.
WHY? WHY DID YOU GET MARRIED? WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GUY AFTER ALL? I WAS GONNA CHASE HIM DOWN AND ASK THOSE QUESTIONS, BUT HE WAS WITH HIS CHILDREN. SO, I DIDN'T.

AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THERE ARE MORE GIRLS GIVING CHOCOLATE TO GIRLS THAN TO BOYS, SHE SAID.
CHOCOLATE EXCHANGED BETWEEN GIRLS IS CALLED FRIEND CHOCOLATE.
...?
THIS IS FROM MY SISTER TO YOU. IT'S CHOCOLATE.
TO MISS BOSS
T..THANK YOU.
BETWEEN GIRLS...
THAT'S CUTE.
(GIGGLE)

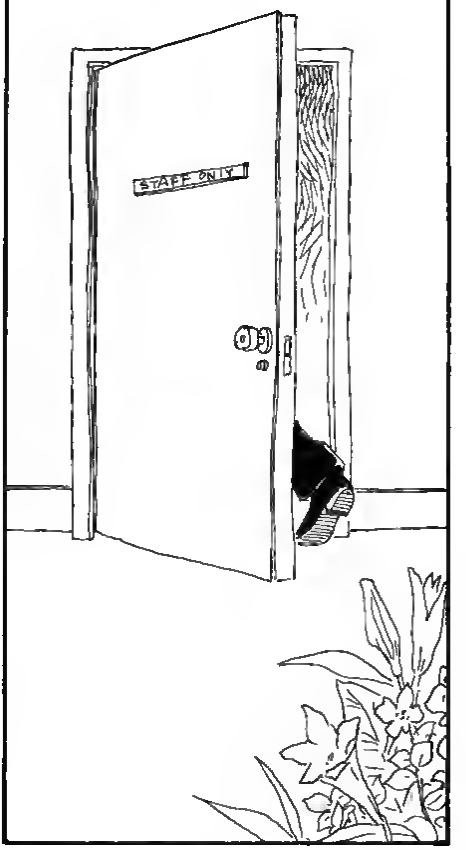


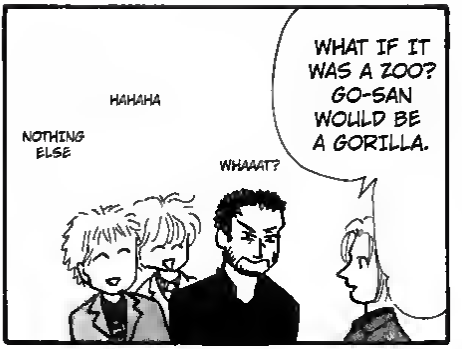






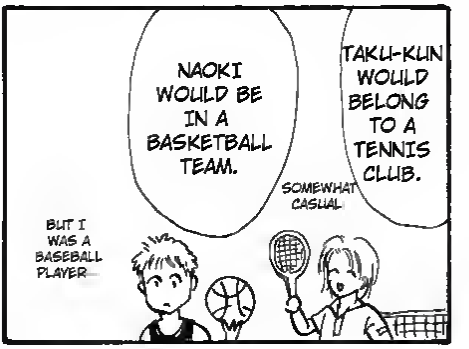
NAGAMI CLUB STAFF ROOM



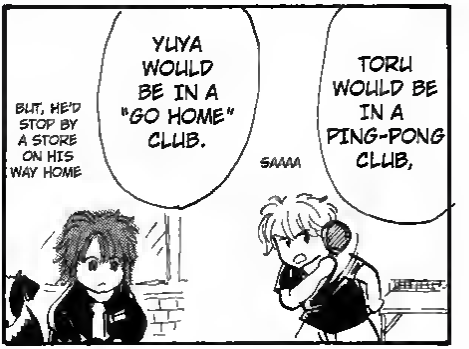

WHAT IF IT WAS A ZOO? GO-SAN WOULD BE A GORILLA.
HAHAHA
NOTHING ELSE
WHAAAT?

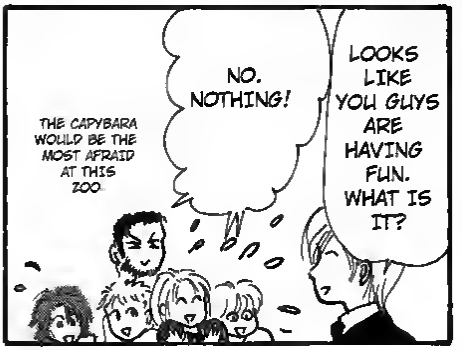
IF NAGOMI CLUB WAS A SCHOOL. GO-SAN...
...HE'D BE A DEMON-LIKE COACH.

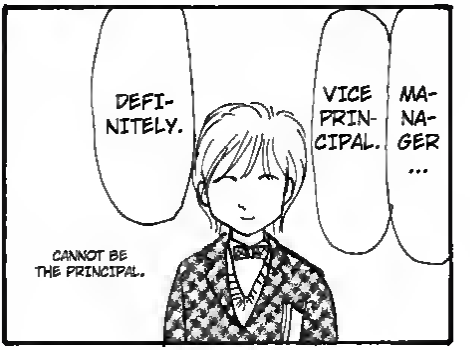
TAKU-SAN WOULD BE A RING-TAILED LEMUR.
I WANNA BE A LION.
WHAT IS IT?
NOT WHAT YOU LIKE!
I LIKE AN ELEPHANT


TAKU-KUN WOULD BELONG TO A TENNIS CLUB.
NAOKI WOULD BE IN A BASKETBALL TEAM.
SOMEWHAT CASUAL
BUT I WAS A BASEBALL PLAYER

MANAGER MUST BE A CAPYBARA THAT WOULD GET IN A HOT SPRING.
YES YES
NICE HOT SPRING


TORU WOULD BE IN A PING-PONG CLUB,
YUYA WOULD BE IN A "GO HOME" CLUB.
BUT, HE'D STOP BY A STORE ON HIS WAY HOME
SAAAA


LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE HAVING FUN. WHAT IS IT?
NO. NOTHING!
THE CAPYBARA WOULD BE THE MOST AFRAID AT THIS ZOO


MA-NA-GER ...
VICE PRIN-CIPAL.
DEFI-NITELY.
CANNOT BE THE PRINCIPAL.

初出

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2009年2月号～4月号 6月号～8月号・10月号～12月号、2010年2月号

BAMBOO COMICS

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nagomi club

2

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